



Probationer gets 11 months in prison for continued use of 'ice.' **PAGE 2**
Four lawmakers declare as Democrats; one aligns with bloc. **PAGE 3**

75¢

Volume XXX, Issue No. 119
WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2020
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

VILLAGE FIESTA

San Antonio Parish held its annual fiesta last Sunday, June 14, to venerate St. Antonio de Padua. It is also considered the first fiesta in the CNMI to be held during this COVID-19 pandemic.

KRIZEL TUAZON

Will tourists come on July 15?

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With less than a month until the projected July 15 reopening, the CNMI government is working non-stop with both the local businesses and the partner countries

CPA ready for tourist arrivals but...

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is ready for the reopening of CNMI borders to international flights by July 15, but CPA board chair Kim-



King-Hinds

berlyn King-Hinds bluntly replied, "Who would want to spend their vacation being quarantined?" when asked whether tourists would come in then.

Just as CNMI residents are con-

See CPA on Page 4

in getting the islands ready for tourists. The goal is two-pronged: first, to ensure that the community is safe; and second, to work with partners in preparing for July, should the tourist industry get back online.

See TOURISTS on Page 4

6th month under state of emergency

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI entered the half-a-year mark of being under a State of Public Health Emergency, and continued Significant Emergency, following Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' issuance of Executive Order 2020-13 last June 15, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new order remains in effect for

See STATE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CHCC removes 'recoveries' from dashboard

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Among the many concerns cited to explain why the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has removed the number of recoveries in the CNMI on its website's tally, Esther Muña says that CHCC is not comfortable using the term "recovery," which she said is misleading.

"To say that someone has recovered from [COVID-19 infection], what does that mean?" asked Muña, who is CHCC's chief executive officer. "...Saying an individual would never have the virus again or they don't completely have the virus [is] kind of mis-

See CHCC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 16, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	185	1	186
Recovered	169	0	169
Active	11	1	12
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	8,915		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	9	0	9
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**	8,169		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The Friendly Plaza Supermarket in San Jose has expanded its space and services.

PAGE 11



NATION

A man is shot after protesters in New Mexico tried to tear down a statue of a conquistador.

PAGE 12



WORLD

European countries reopened borders Monday after a three-month coronavirus shutdown.

PAGE 13



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Probationer gets 11 months in prison for continued use of 'ice'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court sentenced Francisco Nakatsukasa Basa yesterday to 11 months in prison after he admitted to using illegal drugs more than three times in one year while on probation.

U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona revoked Basa's supervised release, sentenced him to 11 months in prison, and imposed 18 months of supervised release. She ordered Basa to self-surrender at the Department of Corrections in Susupe on June 30 at 8am.

The judge told Basa to abide by the previously imposed

special conditions of release while on release for two weeks before self-surrendering.

At the hearing, court-appointed counsel Bruce Berline said that his client, Basa, is prepared to admit the allegations in the U.S. Probation Office's declarations.

In his report submitted in court, U.S. probation officer

Gregory F. Arriola said that Basa admitted last June 4 and 9 that he used methamphetamine or "ice" again, that Basa stated that it is difficult for him to stop using methamphetamine once he gets started.

Last June 4, Arriola said, he instructed Basa to report to his office for a random drug test. He said Basa failed to report at the designated time. An hour later, Basa called, admitting that he had "relapsed" and used "ice" the night before. Arriola said Basa was instructed last June 9 to report to his office for another random

drug test and that Basa eventually admitted that he used "ice" two days earlier and that he has having hard time to stop using it.

With the shutdown of the Hinemlu O'hala Para Entarmenti Recovery Center, or the HOPE Recovery Center, due to COVID-19 pandemic, Basa who was among the occupants of the facility, went back home last March and allegedly used methamphetamine and drank alcohol.

Last Feb. 4, Arriola also informed the court that Basa admitted that he used metham-

phetamine last Jan. 12. Basa appeared in court last Feb. 19 and admitted to the allegation.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

According to court records, in 2006 the District Court sentenced Basa to four years and six months in prison for conspiracy to distribute 50 grams of methamphetamine. He was placed on probation after completing the prison term.

The court had revoked Basa's supervised release several times in the past mainly due to using methamphetamine or "ice."

FHB.COM

**PURE
CHECKING**
For life
on the go.

Our checking accounts come with convenient features¹.

KEY BENEFITS

- + **No minimum balance requirements**
- + **FHB Online³ & Mobile Banking with Mobile Deposit⁴**

No Monthly Service Charge With eStatements²

Bank Wherever, Whenever

Deposit Checks Anytime



First Hawaiian Bank.
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

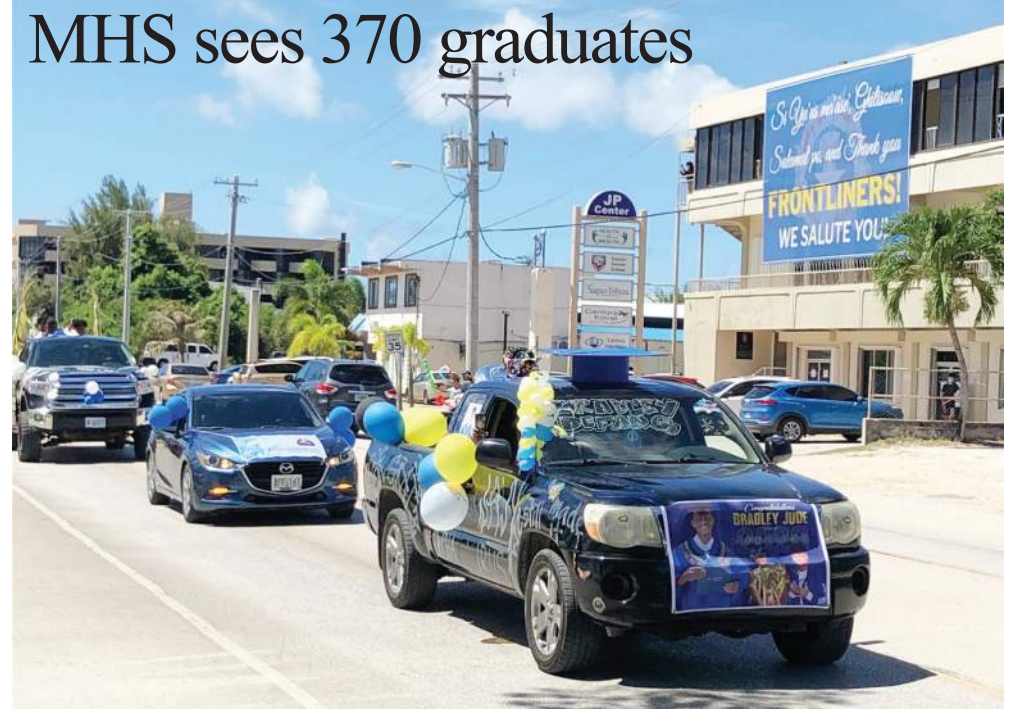


Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559

Member FDIC



MHS sees 370 graduates



The graduating seniors of Marianas High Schools hold a motorcade and distribution of diploma via drive-thru last Friday.

KRIZEL TUAZON

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High Schools held a virtual ceremony followed by a motorcade for 370 graduating seniors last week to mark the end of another school year.

On Thursday, MHS held a livestream award distribution. The following day, Friday, the graduating seniors had a motorcade and distribution of diploma via drive-thru.

The virtual ceremony was emceed by teachers Romolo Orsini and Kristina Springer, and included the pre-recorded congratulatory remarks of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Board of Education chair Janice Tenorio, and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada.

MHS acting principal Melanie Rdiall noted that the graduating class had to overcome so many adversities and challenges to get to this point. "I never doubted that you stood ready, willing and able to welcome the changes. Take pride in knowing that you are built

with courage and strength to rise above any and all adversities," she said in her message to the seniors.

MHS alumna Laila Y. Boyer, who was chosen by the graduating class as their keynote speaker, said: "Everything begins with the right attitude. Think of what drives you, what motivates you. Your graduation theme rightly speaks to having that power within you."

Nicole Ye Eun Kim is this year's MHS valedictorian. Tian En Chen was named the class salutatorian.

The rest of the awards given out during MHS' virtual graduation ceremony:

■ Nicole Ye Eun Kim – Board of Education Award

■ Tian En Chen – Commissioner of Education Award

■ Angela Barbo – Governor's Leadership Award, Outstanding Female Graduate Award

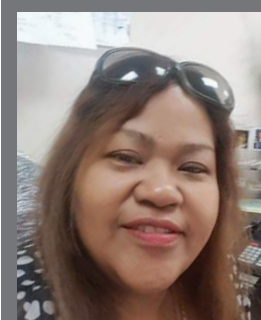
■ Mark Dave Pangelinan Jr.–Mayor's Community Award

■ Kyle Thorne – Principal's Award

Top 10

- Nicole Ye Eun Kim
- Tian En Chen
- Kate Ishida
- Edriel Javier
- Lesly Ibarra
- Monique Mascarinas
- Esther Park
- Kennedy Luther Vila
- James Matthew Reyes
- Daisy Pearl Panhilason

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday to the most precious woman in the world, our mother, Zina C. Nekaifes. You are our angel, our mentor, our superhero, and most of all, our blessing. We love you, Mom, and we will never forget how much you are always there for us. We wish you love and happiness. Greetings come from Paul and your children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

¹ **Opening Deposit.** The minimum deposit to open a personal checking account is \$20.

² **Monthly Service Charge.** The monthly service charge is waived with enrollment in eStatements, otherwise \$2 per month. A monthly fee of \$5.00 will apply to accounts that elect to receive both eStatements and paper statements.

³ **FHB Online Banking.** Using Direct Connect to Quicken® or QuickBooks® may cause you to incur additional fees. There is no fee to connect using Web Connect or Express Web Connect. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online Services at fhb.com/digital for details.

⁴ **FHB Mobile Banking.** You must have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking, and an auto-focus, rear-facing camera for Mobile Deposit. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online Services at fhb.com/digital for details.

App Store® is a service mark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Android, Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC.

Four lawmakers declare as Democrats; one aligns with bloc

Minority leader Rep. Edwin Propst (Precinct 1), and Reps. Christina “Tina” Sablan (Precinct 2), Sheila Babauta (Precinct 4), and Richard Lizama (Precinct 5) announced yesterday they are declaring as Democrats, and are committed to building the Democratic Party in the Northern Mariana Islands. Rota Rep. Donald Manglona (Precinct 7) also announced that he is running as an independent aligned with the Democrats, and is in full support of the Democratic team.

The five are running for reelection to the CNMI House of Representatives in this year’s midterm race. The incumbents said the time is right to grow the Democratic Party, reestablish a two-party system in the Northern Marianas, and restore trust and accountability in the Commonwealth government.

“If we want real change, then we need to change the one-party rule that we’ve become so used to over the past decades. Monopolies are never good for communities, whether in the form of casinos or political parties,” said Propst. “I am running as a Democrat to break the one-party rule and to join a party that welcomes



Propst



Sablan



Babauta



Lizama



Manglona

everyone and gives everyone a seat at the table.”

Babauta said: “I believe that it is possible to create the CNMI we envision for ourselves for generations to come. The Democratic values of civic engagement, grassroots organization, and community empowerment are essential pieces to that very idea. The incumbent members who have chosen to run with the Democratic Party have demonstrated responsible leadership, hard work, and passion for our CNMI. This team brings me hope that we can truly rebuild trust in our government, hold one another accountable, and create meaningful and enforceable legislation toward a brighter CNMI.”

Separately, Lizama said: “The Democratic Party is the people’s party, regardless of one’s gender, religion, ethnicity, or the color of one’s skin. My decision to run as a Democrat is because I believe in the two-party system. I am

running in an organized party in this upcoming election to be a more influential advocate for my constituents and the people of the CNMI. It is also time to reenergize the party to prepare us for the 2022 general election.”

“As an independent candidate, I will support all policies I feel would benefit the people of Rota and the entire CNMI,” said Manglona. “I have no doubt that my colleagues who will run under the Democratic Party will continue to push meaningful legislation while continuing to fight for the best interests of the people of the CNMI, and for that, I support their decision.”

Sablan said: “We in the House minority have always placed the interests of the people first, before personal or special interests. That’s what Democrats stand for. And as Democrats, we are committed to improving opportunities for working families, expanding investments in public educa-

tion and health care, protecting the environment, and embracing diversity. We believe in building an economy that works for everyone—not only the rich, not only the politically connected, not only the few.”

In his message to the citizens of the CNMI, Propst said: “We hope you will join us, because you are the change we’ve been waiting for.”

“If you are considering running for office, run with us,” Babauta urged. “Let’s create our CNMI together.”

NMI Democratic Party chair Nola Kileleman Hix welcomed the incumbent House representatives: “The CNMI has been under the same one-party rule for decades, and it is time for necessary change. The Democratic Party and its supporters are so proud that our incumbent legislators are here to help mold the party into what we all want it to be,

by honoring its values and giving recognition to the critical role the young generation plays in our future development. We will work together to recruit candidates and elect leaders who will restore honesty, integrity, accountability, and respect for the rule of law in our CNMI government.”

Individuals who are interested in joining the Democratic Party or running as Democratic candidates may contact Hix at chairwoman@nmi-dems.org or (670) 989-6652. The deadline to submit letters of intent to run as Democrats in the 2020 midterm election is June 20, 2020. (PR)

MARIANAS CARRIER



Turn to the Experts™



Products Offered:

Air Conditioner Units which are all Energy Savers!

GUALO RAI COMMERCIAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 503139, SAIPAN, MP 96950

TEL. NO: (670) 233-2665/(670) 233-0210 | FAX NO: (670) 233-2100
EMAIL: info@advancecarrier.com

We offer
Air Conditioner
Services to
both Residential
and Commercial
Customers that
are all Energy
Savers with
a high SEER
(the higher the
SEER rating,
the more energy
efficient the a/c)
We have as high
as 25 SEER



CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division is now conducting the CNMI 2020 Prevailing Wage Study (2020 PWS) survey and notifies all businesses and employers, private and public, in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the 2020 PWS survey questionnaire.

Every business and employer, even if you do not have any employees, is urged to complete this survey before June 30, 2020.

2020 PWS Data Collection Portal Link:
<http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/>



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Draft 2021-2025 Section 309 Assessment and Strategy Request for Public Comment

DATE: June 16, 2020

NOTICE: This is to notify the general public that the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) is seeking input on its DRAFT 2021-2025 Section 309 Assessment and Strategy Report. Every five years, states and territories are encouraged to conduct self-assessments of their coastal management programs to strengthen and improve their federally approved coastal management programs in one or more of nine enhancement areas.

These enhancement areas include aquaculture, coastal hazards, cumulative and secondary impacts, energy and government facility siting, marine debris, ocean and Great Lakes resources, public access, special area management plans, and wetlands. Each program identifies high-priority management issues and important needs and information gaps the program must fulfill to address these issues.

The draft document can be accessed at the following link: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/CNMI_Section309v.5_06.12.20_DRAFT_Clean.pdf.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM office at the Gualo Rai Center on Middle Road, by email at planning@dcrm.gov.mp, and by phone at (670) 664-8318. It is the agency’s intent to include all written and oral comments received during this comment period. Feedback obtained through this process will inform the development of the final version of the document.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

CNMI sees average weather activity for remainder of the year

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Weather Service in Tinian, Guam, reports that the typhoon outlook for the region calls for an average year of activity. However, a weak disturbance is expected to pass south of Guam this week and scattered showers are possible across Guam but most rainfall will keep south of Tinian and Saipan.

Aside from the weak disturbance, NWS reports that there are currently no suspect areas for development across Micronesia.

NWS is still encouraging the Marianas and others within the Micronesia region to prepare in case severe weather arises unexpectedly.

So far this year, NWS said there has been two tropical cyclones in the western North Pacific. The first was Typhoon Vongfong back in May

and earlier this month, Tropical Depression 02W, which sat west of the northern Philippines.

Aside from average activity, drought has worsened exceptionally in the CNMI and continues across islands in Micronesia.

“Very dry conditions persist across Tinian and Saipan where the Extreme Drought classification was downgraded to Exceptional Drought. Saipan saw record low rainfall for

the month of May, the lowest since record keeping began. Dry conditions will continue across the CNMI at least a couple more weeks,” NWS stated.

The NWS forecast shows near

adequate rainfall is expected in the coming weeks across most of Micronesia south of 10N.

Drier conditions will persist north of 10N, including the northern Marshall Islands and the Marianas.

RMI trust fund lost 14.95% in Q1 due to COVID-19

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Trust Fund Committee of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands conducted its fiscal year 2020 third quarter meeting on June 2 and 3rd (Majuro) via video-conference.

The meeting covered the Fund’s investment performance for the January-March 2020 quarter as well as a current market update given the COVID-19 pandemic and the effect on the Fund as well as the global economy and financial markets.

For the January-March 2020 quarter, the Fund lost 14.95%, above the benchmark of -16.19%. The net asset value of the Fund was \$417,902,045, preliminary and unaudited, as of March 31, 2020. The loss was due to the financial and economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the quarter, the Fund received a contribution of \$5 million on Feb. 19, 2020 that, in accordance with Section 216(b) of the Amended Compact, was recorded as an RMI government contribution. This contribution was for a compensatory adjustment for the adverse financial and economic impact resulting from the effect of Title IV of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1986 upon Title Two of the Compact, consistent

with the Compact of Free Association Act of 1986, and its successor, the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003. The Fund also received a contribution from Taiwan in the amount of \$2.4 million on 4/24/20.

The Fund recovered in April with a gain 7.32% for the month. For the fiscal year to date (as of Oct. 1, 2019), the Fund was down 2.38% and ended the month with a net asset value of \$450,894,119, preliminary and unaudited.

The committee reviewed and approved adjustments to the Investment Policy Statement to guide the asset allocation, including adding updated capital market assumptions. The committee approved a service proposal from the Fund’s auditor, Baker Tilly LLC, to conduct the audits for fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022. The committee also noted the status of the distribution policy and other Trust Fund issues post-2023, including noting the current status of bilateral negotiations between the governments of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The next quarterly meeting will take place in late August or early September 2020. **(PR)**

TOURISTS

From Page 1

The CNMI, however, is operating from a realistic perspective, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said, given that there are factors that are beyond local control. Hence, the moving target.

In an interview on the subject, Torres said the CNMI’s tourist market is also having difficulties within their own countries in how they would treat returning residents. If they do come to the CNMI, these countries have their own protocols on how to welcome back returning residents. Torres said the CNMI government is working with airlines, tour agents, and the Marianas Visitors Authority on these countries to address these concerns.

Quarantine protocols for travelers pose as an issue in tourism, consider-

ing that a traveler will be subjected to days of quarantine before getting into the CNMI, and could get subjected to quarantine again, when they go back to their countries.

“...Other countries...have their own quarantine of 14 days so even if we open here, tourists going back to their country will be parked for 14 days. Those are the challenges,” Torres said. “Obviously, our travel partners’ countries have their own regulation, and are out of our hands. But we’re definitely working with each respective entity in showcasing what we have on the islands.”

The governor also said that the Economic Council and Advisors will be meeting this week. “If we can’t get in July, then we move on to August,” Torres said. “But the whole approach with the community partnership, with the private sector, with [the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana

Islands], Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and everyone, is to allow the transition for the community and our businesses to have a new norm, and be ready, in case our tourist market is able to come online,” he said. “Our whole purpose of opening, having an opening date, is for our community and our business partners to get accustomed to those changes.”

Right now, the CNMI’s crown jewel, Managaha Island, is already open, subject to social distancing requirements, but the Grotto and other public beaches are still deemed closed. Public beaches may be accessed but only for exercise purposes and subsistence fishing.

With a mainly tourism-based economy, should tourists continue to not come until the end of the year, there are federal programs to support the CNMI. Community support to local businesses also is key.

CPA

From Page 1

cerned about potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus, so are tourists, she said yesterday.

“This is a global pandemic that will probably continue to have chilling impact on the travel industry until such time that there is a vaccine or a testing infrastructure,” King-Hinds said in response to *Saipan Tribune’s* request for comments about Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport’s reopening to international flights.

She assured, though, that the CPA team is working hard to implement mitigation measure to ensure the safety of its employees and the traveling public. “CPA will be as ready as we can be,” she said.

Right now, all arriving passengers are immediately whisked off to the quarantine site at the Pacific Islands

Club Saipan for the mandatory quarantine. After five days, these passengers have the option to be tested for COVID-19. If they are found negative, they are then released. If they opt not to be tested, they will stay at PIC for the entire 14-day quarantine period.

This may change, though, once the CNMI borders are reopened and it was earlier hinted that a new quarantine procedure will be put in place in the CNMI. But if the current protocol is not revised, that means all arriving tourists will undergo quarantine in the CNMI, be released for their short vacation here, then go back to their home countries where there are also similar quarantine procedures.

At the CPA board committees’ meeting last June 3, King-Hinds and CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio disclosed an action plan to implement certain public health precautionary measures in anticipation

of the July 15 reopening of the CNMI to international flights.

King-Hinds said their airport action plan is not just for employees but for the traveling public as well.

CPA is installing plexiglass dividers, ensuring they have disinfecting process on a regular basis, and providing hand sanitization, among other measures.

Other measures include ensuring that people who are coming through the airport practice social distancing.

Tenorio disclosed that the CPA team already has a mitigation action plan, the draft of which they have provided to board members. “We’re actually doing everything to start preparing for the flights for the July 15 arrivals,” he said.

Tenorio also disclosed that the Federal Aviation Administration will be providing face masks to all CNMI airports—24,500 pieces for Saipan, 5,000 for Tinian, and 2,500 for Rota.

CHCC

From Page 1

leading, so we [basically] removed that information,” she said.

Although, Guam records every time a patient has “recovered,” CHCC has opted to remove that information.

Muña also says that it’s to protect the identity of the person who is infected. “We don’t release it...especially since it identifies the demographics and the demographics can definitely link to someone, especially if you know that somebody had come off a flight,” she said.

Similarly, in releasing information on someone who has tested positive, CHCC prefers to get that information

out as soon as possible, with the most accurate information. According to Muna, this makes it easier to control rumors.

She declined to respond when asked if CHCC has retested “recovered” patients.

CHCC has also been mapping out which area of the CNMI, including Rota and Tinian, where people get tested the most and also what village needs to get tested more. Based on this, Muña said, the first few days of the community-based testing at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport testing site mostly covered people who live on the east side of Saipan.

With COVID-19 being a rapidly evolving situation, Muña advises people who have tested negative to

ensure that they still follow all guidelines and rules. She added since there is no vaccine yet, the risk for a person who has tested negative is low if you continue to practice proper hygiene, social distancing, and washing your hands.

To date, the CNMI has 30 confirmed cases, with nine active cases and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, one new case of COVID-19 was reported yesterday by the Department of Defense and was identified through contact tracing.

To date, there have been 186 confirmed cases in Guam, with five deaths, 169 released from isolation, and 12 active cases.

STATE

From Page 1

30 days, or until July 15.

Torres first declared the state of emergency last January, in a move to prevent and contain the highly-contagious virus from spreading all over the islands. Globally, more than 7.76 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in more than 188 countries and territories.

So far, the CNMI has 30 cases, with nine currently active—not the thousands that were earlier predicted for the islands by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Along with the new executive order, the Commonwealth also transitions to Community Vulnerability Level Blue following the governor’s declaration, which came with the amendments to the emergency directives to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under Level Blue, up to 25 people can now be in a room or space, churches can now accommodate up to 50% of their allowed occupancy, and some businesses’ occupancy limit is now increased to 75%. Non-contact recreational activities, gym workouts, and group exercises, are also now allowed.

Strict social distancing and sanitation protocols must be implemented. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. provides the guidance on these mandatory social distancing and sanitation implementation.

Curfew is now from 12am to 4am. Only law enforcement officers on duty, and those who are lawfully employed, or are going to or returning

home from their place of employment or from admission to hospital, or completion of medical treatment, are exempted during these hours.

Businesses under ‘Blue’

Businesses with facilities open to the public can now open from 5am to 11pm. Groceries and shops can have up to 75% of the occupancy limit.

For restaurants and bars, permitted occupancy limit is now at 50%. In addition to strict adherence to social distancing and sanitation, temperature screening of all employees and patrons must also now be done prior to entering the establishments.

Managaha Island is open to the public, so long as social distancing is implemented for both transport vessels and on-island activities. Public parks, including the Grotto, remains closed to the public. Beaches and pathways remain open, and still only for exercise and wellness, and for shoreline subsistence fishing and commercial fishing activities, and all within 4am up to 12 midnight.

All businesses engaged in gaming, such as casinos, video poker establishments, and e-gaming facilities are to remain closed to the public.

Under Level Blue, hotels, tour operators and tourism industry stakeholders must finalize preparations for thermal monitoring and establish internal Standard Operating Procedures for mitigating risk in preparation for tourist arrivals, alongside public health officials.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

High court reverses ruling that awarded Joeten \$206

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has reversed the Superior Court’s final judgment that awarded Joeten Motor Company Inc. \$120 in attorney’s fees instead of its request for \$475, and \$86 in costs instead of its request for \$261, in connection with its lawsuit against a customer who defaulted on car payments.

In their opinion on Monday, the justices found that Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan erred in vacating the clerk of court’s entry of default judgment and abused his discretion in failing to award Joeten the full requested at-

costs collectively constitute a “sum certain” for which the clerk may enter default judgment. Joeten argued the attorney’s fees are a sum certain that can be readily determined under the court’s 1992 schedule of attorney’s fees in default judgment cases. It maintained that the costs were also a sum certain because they were supported by a sworn declaration.

In reversing Bogdan’s final judgment, the justices cited that Rule 60(a) permits the court to correct “clerical mistakes in judgments, orders or other parts of the record and errors therein arising from oversight or omission.” In this case, the justices said, Bogdan incorrectly

relied on Rule 60(a) to justify vacating the default judgment, stating that “the default judgment...is hereby vacated under Commonwealth Rule of Civil Procedure 60(a) as the default judgment contained awards of damages the clerk of court may not administratively enter.”

The justices said this language does not express that the clerk made a mechanical, typographical, or mathematical mistake. Rather, the justices said, the language implies the clerk did not possess the authority to enter default judgment. In other words, the judge’s justification is premised on an allegedly legal error rather than a clerical error, they said. The justices said Bogdan’s invocation of Rule 60(a) to vacate the default judgment was therefore an abuse of discretion.

On the issue of attorney’s fees, the justices found that Joeten’s request for such fees and costs was a sum certain for which the clerk properly entered default judgment.

Joeten argued Bogdan abused his discretion in awarding costs lower than requested based on his belief this action should have been filed as a small claims action. The justices said Rule 83 provides the party with flexibility in filing its case as a small claims case or as a civil case; therefore, a reduced award of costs cannot be justified because Rule 83 provides such flexibility.

The justices said Bogdan abused his discretion because Rule 83 leaves the choice concerning what type of action to file with the party. The justices said the judge should have awarded costs incurred in filing the case as a civil action.



Manglona


Associate Justice John A. Manglona penned the high courts’ decision. Associate Justice Perry B. Inos and Justice Pro Tempore Robert J. Torres Jr. concurred with Manglona.

According to court records, Alicia DLG Leon Guerrero bought a car from Joeten but, after defaulting on her payments, Joeten, through counsel Michael A. White, sued to recover the balance. When Leon Guerrero failed to answer the complaint, Joeten asked for a default judgment against her, which the court granted.


Joeten asked for a default judgment of \$2,836, consisting of \$2,100 in principal, \$475 in attorney’s fees, and \$261 in costs. At a later hearing, Bogdan allowed the entry of default judgment as to the principal amount but vacated the attorney’s fees and costs, deeming these as “damages” the clerk may not administratively enter. The judge did, however, grant Joeten the opportunity to substantiate its request for attorney’s fees and costs. After another hearing, Bogdan awarded attorney’s fees of \$120—a reduction by \$280.

Because Bogdan maintained this action should have been filed as a small claims case rather than a civil case, he awarded costs of \$86—a reduction of \$175.

Joeten appealed to the high court to reverse the final judgment, asserting through White, that Bogdan incorrectly vacated the clerk’s default judgment. The company also argued that the principal sum, attorney’s fees, and



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Highway Program Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-1.

A copy of the plan can be obtained at DPW Technical Services Division Highway Branch for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd. Floor Joeten Commercial Bldg., Beach Road (above First Hawaiian Branch) or via email to: lms.dpwtst@gmail.com no later than July 01, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions regarding DPW TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine M. Seman, Highway Administrator or Mr. Kenn Aldan, Federal Program Coordinator at the Department of Public Works TSD Highway Branch at 234-9828 or 234-9838.

The following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-1:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan Amendment-1: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Amendment 1

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program-	Admin	\$ 975,986.00	\$ 1,417,604.20	\$ 1,931,986.00	\$ 1,644,486.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Phase II	PE-Design Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
I	Sinapalo	11	Route 11 - Sabana Road Improvement, Phase II	Construction		\$ 1,750,000.00		
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE Design		\$ 300,000.00		
II	San Jose	202	Route 202 - Hazard Elimination	PE Design Construction		\$ 500,000.00		
III	Chalan Lulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE ROW Construction CM		\$ 1,000,000.00		
	Chalan Lulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Installation of Traffic Light System	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 2,500,000.00		
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 200,000.00	
III	Oleai-Christo Rai	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 3 (JP Center to Oleai)	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 400,000.00		
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 1,000,000.00 \$ 200,000.00		
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE Design Construction CM-DPW	\$ 2,500,000.00			
III	Obyan	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements	Env. Update Construction CM	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00 \$ 300,000.00		
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00 \$ 150,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00 \$ 150,000.00	
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 1,500,000.00	
	Island-Wide		Island-Wide Hazard Elimination, Saipan	Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 13,575,104.20	\$ 8,339,486.00	\$ 1,701,986.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					\$ 603,225.00	\$ 14,813,805.99	\$ 5,282,001.79	\$ 985,815.79
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)					\$ 14,220,766.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI					\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00
Annual Allocation:					\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)					\$ 18,867,291.99	\$ 18,857,105.99	\$ 9,325,301.79	\$ 5,029,115.79
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 13,575,104.20	\$ 8,339,486.00	\$ 1,701,986.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)					\$ 14,813,805.99	\$ 5,282,001.79	\$ 985,815.79	\$ 3,327,129.79
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)								

DPS issues update on missing individual

On Friday, June 12, 2020, at about 1:44pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a possible missing individual, Jason Fitial, in the village of San Jose.



Fitial

Family members told the officer that Fitial was last seen on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at about 9:30am. The individual arrived at their home in San Jose, and asked to borrow a machete to cut

down some fruits from a nearby tree. The family member did not check to see if Fitial went into the wooded area behind the home.

Fitial was last seen using a blue, red and yellow striped shirt, and a pair of short pants.

On Monday, June 15, 2020, a tip came in that Fitial was seen at Ming Yang Market in San Vicente last Thursday, and another tip from the community stating that he was also seen



This frame grab from a surveillance camera that was provided by the Department of Public Safety reportedly shows Jason Fitial getting into a sedan.

on Thursday afternoon with another individual in a light-colored Kia Forte sedan.

These tips were later found to be false. The department got in contact with the individual whom witnesses claimed was Jason Fitial. And it was later confirmed that Fitial was not the individual seen in the security footage provided. The department would like to thank the public for your continued concern for the safety and well-being of Fitial.

If you or anyone you know has any information on the whereabouts of Fitial, call 911. His safety is of utmost concern to the department and his family members. (PR)

Convicted ex-DJ sues CHCC, Muña, others

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An ex-disc jockey who convicted of setting fire to a car in 2012 and arrested again last April for terroristic threatening is suing the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña and three others after he was allegedly chemically restrained at the Commonwealth Health Center without his consent and over his objection.

Aside from CHCC and Muna, Aziz Peter Mettao also named as defendants in the lawsuit CHCC employees Dr. Martin Philip Rohringer, Dr. Ashebir T. Chekol, and registered nurse Joshua Tanghal. Mettao, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc., is also suing 10 unnamed CHC employees.

He is suing for alleged violation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution for deprivation of liberty without

due process of law, violation of the CNMI Constitution for unreasonable seizure, violation of Involuntary Commitment Act, and violation of Patient's Rights Act.

Mettao is demanding \$100,000 in compensatory damages.

In the lawsuit filed Monday, he asked the court to direct Muña to provide ongoing education and training for all CHC physicians, nurses, security personnel and staff who have direct patient contact. Rayphand said the training should address persons' rights regarding involuntary detention and commitment and involuntary medication, the Involuntary Commitment Act, and the Patient's Rights Act, that the training should be provided within 30 days for all current CHCC employees, within 30 days of initial employment for new employees, and at least once per year for all employees.

According to Rayphand in the complaint, CNMI police officers brought Mettao to

CHC's emergency room on Saipan on Nov. 10, 2019, at 1:30pm, yet the officers did not file an application for a 72-hour emergency detention.

At 2pm that same day, Rayphand said, Rohringer signed an "application for psychiatric evaluation under the '72-hour emergency detention' provision, Involuntary Civil Commitment Act of 1992." She said Rohringer, as the attending physician, filled out the form stating that he examined Mettao and certified "that he has a mental disorder, is in imminent danger to self or others, and is in need of immediate admission for up to 72 hours of evaluation, treatment, and care."

Rayphand said that before 2:30pm that same day, Nov. 10, Rohringer examined Mettao and determined that he was not suicidal nor homicidal. She said the doctor also concluded that Mettao was "gravely disabled" and admitted him involuntarily to the CHC psychiatric ward at

2:30pm that day.

Rayphand said that at 4pm, another physician, Chekol, assessed the plaintiff and deemed him well-oriented but looks hyperactive and talkative. Mettao allegedly told Chekol that he did not want to take any medications from CHC.

Rayphand said that Tanghal and 1 to 10 other unnamed CHC employees later administered medications to Mettao over his objection. The lawyer said the medications that Tanghal injected into Mettao were Haldol, Ativan, and Benadryl.

At 10:15am that same day,

Nov. 12, Mettao was seen by Dr. Justin T. Van Der Meid and that the plaintiff adamantly refused initiating a trial of any medication.

Later at 12:15pm, Meid discharged Mettao after consulting with his family members who were demanding his release.

Rayphand said Meid determined that Mettao was not exhibiting acute safety concerns that might warrant further involuntary hospitalization and that plaintiff would be able to care for himself.

Rayphand said Muña was aware of a pattern of conduct by CHC employees that deprived persons with mental illness of their right to liberty

without due process as well as their rights under the Involuntary Civil Commitment Act and the Patient's Rights Act.

The lawyer said Muña failed to provide adequate training to CHC personnel to prevent conduct that resulted in Mettao being deprived of his right to be secure in his person and to not be deprived of liberty without due process, his rights under the Involuntary Civil Commitment Act, and his rights under the Patient's Rights Act.

She said Mettao's claims were presented to the CNMI Attorney General on April 1, 2020, but the OAG denied them last May 20.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC's 'Cash for College' webinar on June 18

Interested individuals who are looking for money to pay for college are encouraged to attend the Northern Marianas College's upcoming free "Cash for College" webinar that will be hosted online through Zoom on Thursday, June 18, 2020.

Participants will be provided with personal, one-on-one assistance with the available local and federal scholarships such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, CNMI Scholarship, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, Tinian Municipal Scholarship, Rota Municipal Scholarship, and the TEACH Grant.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be

present during the webinar to provide information and assistance with the NMC admission application process. In addition, those who participate in the webinar will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming fall 2020 semester. This waiver represents a savings of up to \$75.

The registration link is available here: bit.ly/2UwucWO. The webinar will be held at 1pm ChST.

For more information, email fao@marianas.edu or call the NMC hotline numbers at (670) 285-7651 or (670) 285-2059. (PR)

MHS report card distribution

Marianas High School will have its report card distribution from June 17 to June 24, 2020. Report cards may be picked up at the main office Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4:30pm. If you wish to have your child's report card emailed, send your request to melanie.sablan@cnmipss.org or christine.tudela@cnmipss.org. You are also welcome to call in your request at 237-3202. (PR)

Medicaid Office updates business hours

Beginning Monday, June 22, 2020, the CNMI State Medicaid Agency office will be accepting walk-in clients

on Monday-Thursday, from 7:30am to 12pm. The use of masks and social distancing will be strictly enforced for the health and safety of all clients.

Medicaid would also like to remind the public that clients can still drop off their applications via the drop box located at their Capital Hill office and new/returning applicants can pick up all application forms right next to the drop-box or on their website at http://medicaid.cnmi.mp/index.php/sma-services/medicaid-application-forms.

For more information, contact the following:

For general information:
■ Frank Camacho (franklinacamacho@cnmimedicaid.com) or 664-4880

For Eligibility Office:
■ Rose Benito (rositabenito@cnmimedicaid.com) or 664-4882

■ Ruth Pangelinan (ruthpangelinan@cnmimedicaid.com) or 664-4886

■ Soledad Cabrera (soledadcabrera@cnmimedicaid.com) or 664-4887

■ Rita Camacho (ritacamacho@cnmimedicaid.com) or 664-4888

For Accounting/Claims Department: 664-4883/4884 Providers/vendors can also drop off claims and invoices via the drop-off window located by the front entrance door.

■ Director Helen Sablan (helen.sablan@cnmimedicaid.com) or 664-4890 (PR)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Wanted Floral Arrangements Retail Purchaser/Retailer

- Must be able to show experience selecting, purchasing and arranging shipment of fine ceramics from SE Asia
- Must be able to grow, arrange, and care for flowers and living plants
- Must have at least 6 months experience
- Must be fluent in English, preferably able to speak Vietnamese, or Thai.
- ONLY US residents are eligible to apply.

Please call 256-1041 after 5:00pm to apply.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Maintenance / Maintenance Technician -
Preferably knowledgeable in carpentry, electrical, mechanical and plumbing repairs.

Submit Applications To:
AYD SERVICES, INC.
AYD Compound, Beach Road,
San Antonio Village,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 235-7011

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-OGM-080**

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 17, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"LEASE OF ONE (1) MULTIFUNCTION COPIER MACHINE FOR THE
OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARING HOUSE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Guide for restaurants and bars at blue level

On Monday, June 15, 2020, in response to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’s latest amendment to the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives, the Commonwealth Health-care Corp.’s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention has transitioned from operating under Community Vulnerability Level Yellow to Community Vulnerability Level Blue, which allows restaurants and bars to serve dine-in customers at 50% of originally permitted occupancy limit in accordance with supplemental regulatory guidance from the CHCC.

The CHCC-EHDP, formerly known as the CHCC-Bureau of Environmental Health, regulates food handlers and sanitation permitting, among other responsibilities, and sets forth rules for restaurants operating at Level Blue, and has begun on-site visits to restaurants to issue certifications of compliance for dine-in services.

Restaurants and bars during all community vulnerability levels must adhere to the following:

■ Temperature screening of all employees and patrons prior to entering the establishment for dine-in services.

■ Enforce hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and use of face coverings by employees when near other employees and customers.

■ Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hand hygiene practices for both employees and customers.

■ Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or side-walks to ensure that customers remain at least 6 feet apart in queues or ask customers to wait in their cars or away from the establishment while waiting to pick up food.

■ Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, how to properly wash hands, provide notice that no one with symptoms will be permitted inside, and how to properly wear a face covering. Sample signage is available for download at <https://www.chcc.gov.mp/coronavirusinformation.php>

■ Post “one-way” flow signs for entrance and “one-way” flow signs for exit to maintain crowd control.

■ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

■ Wash, rinse, and sanitize all surfaces that come in contact with food after each use.

■ Send employees with symptoms home.

■ Discontinue preset tables—condiments, utensils, and tableware must be removed from table.

■ Ensure that all staff complete online ServSafe trainings

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

■ Red: Least safe

■ Orange

■ Yellow

■ Blue

■ Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

specific to COVID-19 transmission reduction within one week of offering services.

Restaurants/bars which offer dine-in services during Level Blue must adhere to the following additional rules:

■ Limit occupancy to 50% of their originally permitted occupancy limit.

■ Maintain records of one point of contact for each party for contact tracing purposes.

■ Limit parties dining in together to no more than six people at restaurants and two people at bars.

■ All parties must remain at least 6 feet apart and are encouraged to use outdoor seating whenever possible.

■ Do not offer self-service food or drinks, such as buffet-style dining or beverage refill stations.

Restaurant/bar owners can request an inspection for compliance certification online at the CHCC’s COVID-19 page at chcc.gov.mp or can call the CHCC Environmental Health and Disease Prevention at 664-4870/2/3 between 7:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Restaurant/bar patrons should look for posted certification of compliance with level blue requirements. Valid certificates of compliance are signed by CHCC-EHDP inspectors and include the restaurant’s sanitation permit number for reference. If you believe a restaurant is operating out of compliance with the rules, you may contact 664-4677 to alert regulators. The CHCC EHDP may order an establishment to close if it is found to be non-compliant.

Restaurant patrons should plan to make reservations for dine-in service, limit parties to six people, and respect a 6-foot distance from other parties dining in. The CHCC recommends that restaurant patrons choose outdoor seating if it is available, and see if the restaurant will accept food orders ahead of time to reduce your wait time.

A listing of restaurants open for dine-in service will be updated daily at the CHCC’s COVID-19 page of its website chcc.gov.mp. (PR)

MILLER LAW OFFICE, LLC
Richard C. Miller, Bar No. F0458
2nd Fl., Macararas Bldg., Garapan
PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670 233-0990
Fax: 670 233-5262
Email: millerclmllaw@protonmail.com
Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, v. ESTATE OF VICENTE C. CASTRO, et al., Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0078

AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the remaining leasehold interest in the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on July 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in the open air outside the Commonwealth Development Authority, located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

55-year leasehold interest, dated December 11, 1991, in:

Tract No. EA 220-2-1-R2, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2004/03, the original of which was recorded October 23, 2002, as Document No. 02-2147 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and containing an area of 20,001 square meters more or less.

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution on a leasehold interest in Part of E.A. 220, situated in Talofofo area, Saipan, entered in this action on April 19, 2016, in order to satisfy in part the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
- b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Miller Law Office, LLC, through mail with the address of PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to millerclmllaw@protonmail.com.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2020.

/s/ MILLER LAW OFFICE, LLC
by Richard C. Miller, Esq.

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com
Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, v. ERIC B. ATALIG and LOURDES F. ATALIG, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0004

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on July 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the open air outside the Commonwealth Development Authority, located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Tract No. 21769-R2-5 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

Tract No. 21769-R2-9 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

Tract No. 21769-R2-10 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

The foregoing properties contain a total area of 2,618 square meters, more or less. This Amended Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on January 12, 2017, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public and will be held in the open air. All public attendees are asked to observe social distancing measures and to wear face masks. Any attendees wishing to appear by video conferencing or telephone must notify counsel for CDA in advance at the contact information provided in this notice at least by 10:00AM on July 14, 2020.

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
- b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios to the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487
Attorney for CDA

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com
Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, v. THE ESTATE OF HERMAN T. PALACIOS and the ESTATE OF JOYCELYN C. PALACIOS, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0004

AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on July 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the open air outside the Commonwealth Development Authority, located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the

Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 001 I13, containing an area of 1,529 square meters, more or less, as described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 I 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 712, on the 1st day of March 1971, including all existing and future improvements on the said property;

This Amended Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on January 7, 2019, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public and will be held in the open air. All public attendees are asked to observe social distancing measures and to wear face masks. Any attendees wishing to appear by video conferencing or telephone must notify counsel for CDA in advance at the contact information provided in this notice at least by 10:00AM on July 14, 2020.

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

- b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

- c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios to the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487
Attorney for CDA

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, v. AMBROSE BENNETT, individually and dba LIL & BRO'S TRIKE DEALERSHIP & RENTALS, AND JUAN T. LIZAMA, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0236

AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on July 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the open air outside the Commonwealth Development Authority, located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 031 A 01, containing an area of 1,186 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 A 00 dated 20 February 1985, as File No. 85-0423.

This Amended Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on July 23, 2018, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Ambrose Bennett, individual and dba Lil and Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals, and Juan T. Lizama.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public and will be held in the open air. All public attendees are asked to observe social distancing measures and to wear face masks. Any attendees wishing to appear by video conferencing or telephone must notify counsel for CDA in advance at the contact information provided in this notice at least by 10:00AM on July 14, 2020.

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

- b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

- c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 02607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interest of Defendant Juan T. Lizama to the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487
Attorney for CDA

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 119

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,

Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't abolish the Minneapolis Police Department—reinvent policing

Sparked by the horrific death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the phrase “Defund, dismantle the police” has become an oft-chanted protest rallying cry. In fact, a majority of Minneapolis City Council members recently said they support either slashing the police budget or doing away with the department altogether for a “police-free” future.

Although related calls for changes in policing strategies are welcome, talk of eliminating law enforcement in Minneapolis is irresponsible. Defunding or abolishing the Police Department won't improve public safety. It's also politically unrealistic and would violate the city's charter, an obstacle some council members propose to remedy through a ballot initiative this November.

Substantial reform through the kinds of changes in hiring, training, discipline and union contracts that the Star Tribune Editorial Board has endorsed for years is the way forward. The overhaul also could involve reallocating some police funding to improve community policing, better handle the demands of mental health calls and rebuild trust in the department.

The council members who have pledged to “begin the process of ending” the Minneapolis Police Department should instead work with, not against, Chief Medaria Arradondo and Mayor Jacob Frey on seeking meaningful community involvement in reinventing MPD.

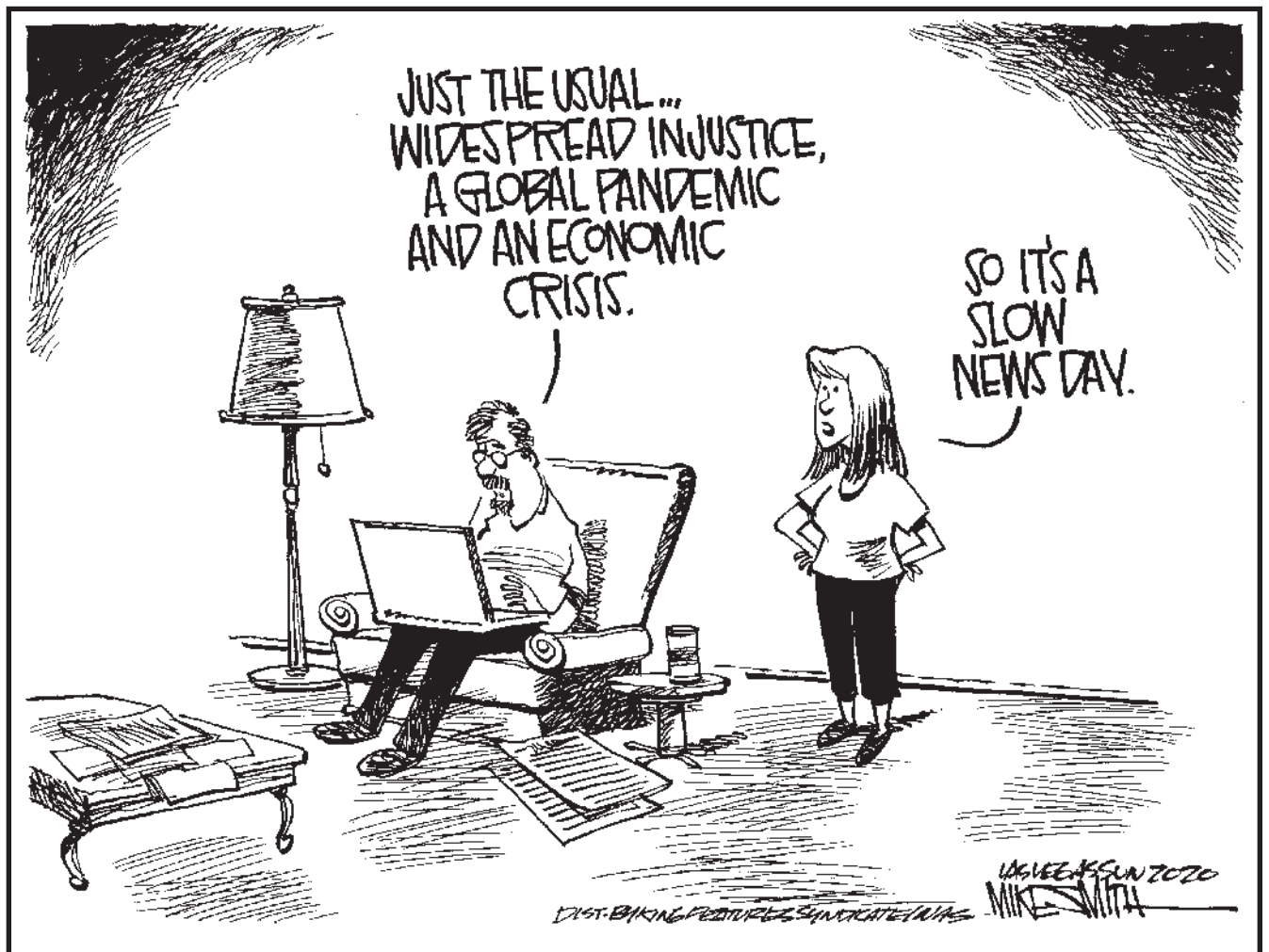
As the state's largest city, with more than 425,000 residents, Minneapolis needs a highly functioning Police Department with adequate resources. It's a growing city with complicated public safety issues. The city needs officers who are dedicated to public service, smart enforcement techniques and peacekeeping through de-escalation. It must protect and serve — not be an occupying force that is feared in some communities.

Law enforcement must meet a range of needs: Keeping downtown safe for residents, workers and visitors. Helping to prevent and solve neighborhood crime involving drugs, guns and assault. And reducing gun violence.

Cops are currently asked to be the first responders for nearly every social ill, including homelessness, poverty, mental illness and addiction. Some demonstrators say we'd be better off to spend directly on those problems, instead of law enforcement and prisons. Certainly, those areas merit investment. But Minneapolis will always need community-based, culturally competent policing. That means adequate staffing so that cops get to know the areas they patrol and view residents as something other than threats. It also means holding officers accountable when they mistreat or abuse citizens.

The Editorial Board has long made the case for police reform not just in Minneapolis and St. Paul, but across the state. On multiple occasions, we have endorsed many of the recommendations from the Obama administration's Task

See **POLICING** on next page



Who profits from racism

Jamie Dimon, chief executive of JPMorgan Chase, took a knee last week before cameras at a branch of his bank. Larry Fink, CEO of giant investment fund BlackRock, decried racial bias. Starbucks vowed on Twitter to “stand in solidarity with our Black partners, customers and communities.” Goldman Sachs chairman and CEO David Solomon wrote on LinkedIn that he grieved “for the lives of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other victims of racism.”

And so on across the highest reaches of corporate America, an outpouring of solidarity with those protesting brutal police killings of black Americans and systemic racism.

But most of this is for show.

JPMorgan has made it difficult for black people to get mortgage loans. In 2017, the bank paid \$55 million to settle a justice department lawsuit accusing it of discriminating against minority borrowers. Researchers have found banks routinely charge black mortgage borrowers higher interest rates than white borrowers and deny them mortgages white applicants would have received.

BlackRock is one of the biggest investors in private prisons, disproportionately incarcerating black and Latino men.

Starbucks has prohibited baristas from wearing Black Lives Matter attire and for years has struggled with racism in its stores as managers accuse black patrons of trespassing and deny them bathrooms to which white patrons have access.

Last week, Frederick Baba, an executive at Goldman Sachs who is black, criticized managers for not supporting junior bankers from diverse backgrounds.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes—in the halls of Congress and the corridors of statehouses, in fundraisers and in private candidate briefings, in strategy sessions with political operatives and public-relations specialists—the CEOs who condemn racism lobby for and get giant tax cuts and fight off a wealth tax.

As a result, the nation can't afford anything as ambitious as a massive Marshall Plan to provide poor communities world-class schools, first-class health care, and affordable housing.

The CEOs resist a living wage and universal basic income. They don't want antitrust laws jeopardizing their market power, thereby requiring consumers pay more. They oppose tighter regulations against red-lining or prohibitions on payday lending, both of which disproportionately burden black and brown people.

Perhaps, most revealingly, they remain silent in the face of Donald Trump's bigotry. Indeed, many are quietly funding the reelection of a president whose political ascent began with a racist conspiracy theory and who continues to encourage white supremacists.

By **ROBERT B. REICH**

Tribune News Service

Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich is a professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of *Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future*. He blogs at www.robertreich.org.



This goes beyond mere hypocrisy. America's top CEOs have amassed more wealth and power than at any time since the “robber barons” of the late 19th century—enough to get legislative outcomes they want and organize the system for their own benefit.

These new robber barons know that as long as racial animosity exists, white and black Americans are less likely to look upward and see where the wealth and power really has gone.

They're less likely to notice that the market is rigged against them all. They'll cling to the meritocratic myth that they're paid what they're “worth” in the market and that the obstacles they face are of their own making rather than an unjust system.

Racism reduces the odds they will join together to threaten that system.

This is not a new strategy. Throughout history, the rich have used racism to divide people and thereby entrench themselves.

Half a century ago, Martin Luther King Jr. observed much the same about the old Southern aristocracy, which “took the world and gave the poor white man Jim Crow. And when his wrinkled stomach cried out for the food that his empty pockets could not provide, he ate Jim Crow, a psychological bird that told him that no matter how bad off he was, at least he was a white man, better than the black man.”

Trump is the best thing ever to have happened to the new American oligarchy, and not just because he has given them tax cuts and regulatory rollbacks.

He has also stoked division and racism so that most Americans don't see CEOs getting exorbitant pay while slicing the pay of average workers, won't notice giant tax cuts and bailouts for big corporations and the wealthy while most people make do with inadequate schools and unaffordable health care, and don't pay attention to the bribery of public officials through unlimited campaign donations.

The only way systemic injustices can be remedied is if power is redistributed. Power will be redistributed only if the vast majority—white, black and brown—join together to secure it.

Which is what the oligarchy fears most.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Coerced patriotism: The autocrat's first line of defense

It's a paradox, but in general the world's most authoritarian regimes are also the most psychologically insecure. This is why autocrats are obsessed with their personal safety, which they anxiously protect with formidable bodyguards.

This is also why authoritarians crave large armies and are fond of military parades featuring well-armed soldiers and trailered missiles. Think Kim Jong Un and Russia's intimidating May Day parades. Both countries have authoritarian regimes that look powerful on the outside but are built on shaky foundations.

Authoritarians are obsessed with dissent. Allegiance to the regime is paramount, and dictators are preoccupied with discovering any hint of disloyalty. Their insecurities lead them to establish secret police and extensive spy networks. Think former East Germany and the Shah of Iran or any other dictator in history.

Finally, authoritarians are passionate about homage to the state and its symbols. Disrespect for the flag and the national anthem is, in the minds of insecure dictators, an early sign of dissatisfaction with the regime that must be quashed immediately.

Thus last week the Hong Kong legislature, under increasing pressure from the Communist Party of China, criminalized disrespect for the Chinese national anthem. The legislation mirrors measures imposed in China in 2017 making disrespect for the national anthem punishable by 15 days in police detention.

The Chinese National People's Congress asserted the importance of protecting "the dignity of the national anthem," in order to "promote patriotism and nurture socialist core values."

The law bans using the anthem for background music, in advertisements or for "inappropriate occasions."

Passive disrespect can be penalized, as well. Failure to properly venerate the anthem is suspect. All citizens attending public events are required to "stand to attention and sing in a solemn manner when the anthem is played." Or go to jail.

Many non-dictatorships penalize disrespect for their national symbols, as well. In France a flag-burner can be fined 7,500 euros and sentenced to six months in prison. In Germany an offender can be sentenced to five years in prison, in Italy, two years and in Israel, three.

I'm grateful that America is one of the few nations that does not criminalize disrespect for our national symbols or try to enforce respect for them by law. Of course, in reality many people have suffered for not showing due reverence for the flag or national anthem. Just ask Colin Kaepernick.

But at least the U.S. in theory takes a broad view of the rights of its citizens to express dissatisfaction with their government by burning its flag, a right inherent in the Constitution and confirmed by the Supreme Court in 1989 in *Texas v. Johnson*. The court ruled that states may not restrain citizens' rights to self-expression, even if it includes disrespect for our national symbols. Symbolic speech is protected by the First Amendment, no matter how offensive or unseemly. Now that's true exceptionalism.

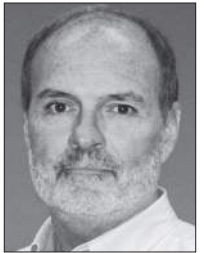
But this could change. Turmoil and hard times tend to stoke authoritarianism, and President Donald Trump's natural authoritarian tendencies are being stimulated.

Recently Trump delivered a long rant about flag-burning, calling it a "disgrace." He also appears to admit publicly to illegal

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.



violations of citizens' rights to self-expression granted by the First Amendment. Of some apparent attempts to burn the flag during the recent protests, he says, "...we stopped them."

The subtleties of the arguments made before the Supreme Court in 1989 are way beyond Trump's capacity to appreciate, but ordinary Americans should make the effort. (The arguments are available online.) The upshot is that the right to speech—including symbolic speech—is meaningless if we start allowing it based on whether we agree or whether we find it offensive.

Authoritarians hate this sort of thinking. Their insecurities are churned up by the threat of citizens speaking freely. The acceptable forms of coerced patriotism are much more conducive to the success of their regimes.

But the fact is, we have much more to fear from Trump's authoritarian tendencies than we do from a few citizens who kneel during the national anthem or who burn what is essentially a piece of cloth, no matter how symbolic.

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



Trumpty Dumpty Tweeter Tales (antagonistic acrostic schismatics)

He's Been on the Job Too Long

M.istaken identities—benevolent despot; demagogic dictator
O. ffensive photo ops offend major Christian religions
R. emove from office ASAP for all too obvious reasons
E. liminate the negative is not in his presidential tool box

T. orschlusspanik (German) alarmed, anxious his presidency is a flop

H. anisa (Yamana) habits, he takes actions he hardly expects to work

A. gita sufferer, he often has feelings of annoyance and gets upset
N. eeds to be voted out of office this coming November 2020

E. nveloped by enturbation, in a constant disturbed state of mind
N. adryv (Russian) anguish about his self rupturing, splitting part
O. ccasional obtundation, has a reduced level of consciousness
U. nderstands little of and wants less understanding of issues
G. rasping at straws to generate votes from his shrinking base
H. ad enough? He also votes by mail. Please vote him out.

B.A.S.E.: B.igly A.dmiration S ociety E. nigma

D. emagoguery damaging to democracy
O. bnoxious offensive oaf, online obstructionist
N. incompoop narcissist well known by all
A. ddleplate, a muddled mind, a contemptible person
L. iar liar, tweets on fire, thousands of lies grow higher
D. umb as mud, thinks with a thud, wifi denier

J. erkball logic, his constitutional knowledge tragic

T. ry and name an American President as bad as him
R. ecent riots in big cities bring out the worst in him
U. S. allies chagrined but not surprised at his composure
M. oscow Mitch, a cheerleader with Senate sycophants
P. ence maintains a pathetic puerile and evangelic stance

4. more years of him is one of our nation's biggest fears
5. 4, & 3 star generals grimace under respective stars.

Law and order is not fascist

Confronted by a clear and present fascist threat, the staff of *The New York Times* rose up to humiliate and punish quislings in its ranks.

In a now famous op-ed, Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton called for federal troops to quell riots and looting, an idea that the *Times* staff considered worthy of Oswald Mosley or Benito Mussolini.

As the *Times* was disavowing the Cotton piece and preparing to push out or demote its top opinion staffers for publishing it, columnist Michelle Goldberg wrote a response called "Tom Cotton's Fascist Op-Ed."

She acknowledged that the *Times* published Russian President Vladimir Putin and Taliban leader Sirajuddin Haqqani and "a similar case could be made for hearing from Cotton, an enemy of liberal democracy." But the difference is that Cotton "is calling for what would almost certainly amount to massive violence against his fellow citizens."

The sophomoric and ahistorical charge that President Donald Trump and his supporters are fascists is now a staple of elite left-of-center opinion.

There is no doubt that Trump's periodic bluster assertions of having total authority are gross, would freak out Republicans if a Democrat made them, and deserve to be condemned. The president loves strength and is drawn to theatrical demonstrations of his own power.

But his critics are unable to distinguish between wild statements at press briefings or in cruel tweets on the one hand and establishing a one-party state or invading France on the other.

Law and order, a favorite Trump theme, is not fascism.

Consider Cotton's op-ed. The senator called for federal troops to assist in subduing rioters and stipulated that "a majority who seek to protest peacefully shouldn't be confused with bands of miscreants." If this is fascism, any effort to stop people burning down buildings now has to be considered dangerous.

Masha Gessen of *The New Yorker* wrote of Trump's photo-op

By **RICH LOWRY**

© 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



with a Bible in front of St. John's Church, "perhaps he had seen a picture of Hitler in a similar pose" (a photo of Hitler in a similar pose that circulated on social media afterward was a fake).

Trump, like Cotton, distinguished between peaceful protestors and rioters, and surely one purpose of his tough talk on federal troops was to prod governors and mayors to get a better handle on the situation on their own.

Much has been made of protestors being pushed back from Lafayette Park before Trump walked over to St. John's Church, but Attorney General Bill Barr has explained this was an effort to expand the perimeter around the park, where there had been mayhem and fires the night before.

Kristallnacht it was not.

No one has talked about crushing peaceful protests. No one has urged the stifling of dissent (no one, that is, outside of *The New York Times* and other "woke" circles). No one has talked of suspending the election. In fact, Trump has been faulted for wanting an overly normal election, with a traditional convention and standard in-person voting.

In a long piece on Trump "collaborators" in *The Atlantic*, Anne Applebaum noted how "references to Vichy France, East Germany, fascists, and Communists may seem over-the-top, even ludicrous. But dig a little deeper, and the analogy makes sense."

No it doesn't. It only speaks of the lack of seriousness of those who insist on making it.

POLICING

From Page 8

Force on 21st Century Policing, and the findings of this year's use of deadly force report by Attorney General Keith Ellison and Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington offer good fodder for legislative action.

St. Paul's mayor and City Council are taking the right approach. Rather than dismantling the SPPD, they're working on needed reforms.

Sharing that view are many area small businesses and the Min-

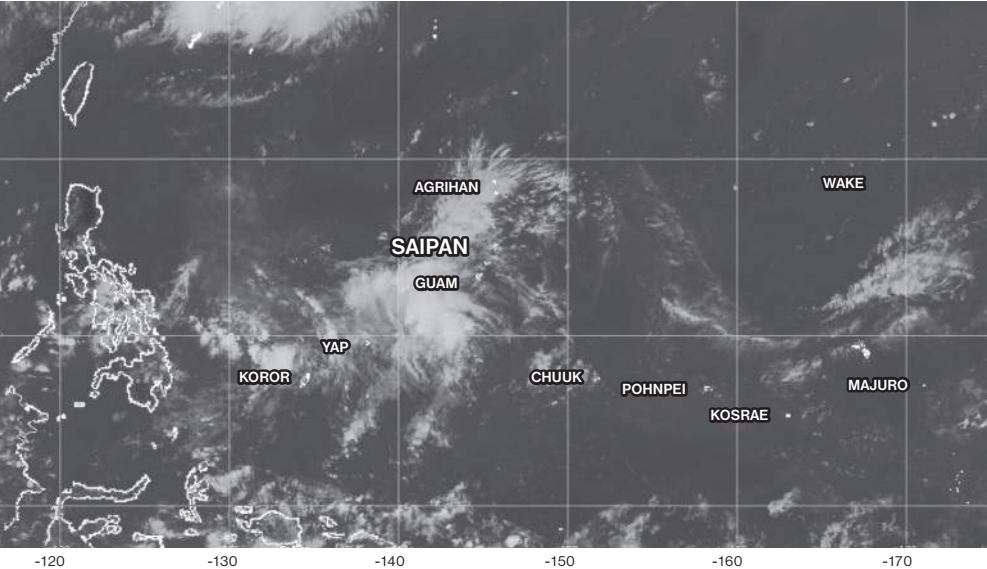
nesota Business Partnership, which represents some of the largest companies in the Twin Cities. We share their interest in seeking legislative changes to make it easier to discipline and dismiss problem officers, including changes in collective bargaining provisions. Partnership executive director Charlie Weaver summed up another argument against defunding or dismantling policing: "Getting rid of crime fighters won't eliminate crime."

This national moment of reckoning about police practices is rightly giving new momentum to overdue reform efforts. George Floyd's death moved Americans to say "enough" and demand change. It should come soon.

© 2020 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
87°	78°	90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:38 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Cloudy skies, isolated showers and thunderstorms are seen across the region. An upper-level low well northwest of the Marianas near 19N140E continues to drift west-northwestward and away from the area, but is still helping to trigger thunderstorms across the Marianas. Buoys and altimetry data show seas of 3 to 5 feet across the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:37 A	3:19 PM	-
Thursday	3:15 AM	4:09 PM	-
Friday	3:55 AM	5:00 PM	-
Saturday	4:40 AM	5:54 PM	-
Sunday	5:28 AM	6:50 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	59° / 48°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Sunny	86° / 75°	
London	Rain	73° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 59°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	61° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°	
Osaka	Rain	75° / 68°	
Paris	Thunderstorm	70° / 57°	
Busan	Rain	72° / 66°	
Rome	Thunderstorm	79° / 61°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	83° / 64°	
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 52°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	81° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Showers	76° / 66°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:19 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.95	
11:32 AM	LOW TIDE	0.46	
6:12 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67	
11:07 PM	LOW TIDE	1.19	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

SUBSCRIPTION

Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business



The newly renovated Friendly Plaza Supermarket is located in San Jose and has a laundromat, a supermarket, and a car rental.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Newly renovated Friendly Plaza Supermarket located in San Jose

has expanded its space and services as it now encompasses a supermarket, a laundromat, and a car rental. While many business people are reluctant to expand or open a new business during the pandemic, Friendly Plaza Supermarket owner and president James Burke opened the new plaza last June 2 and did not see the current circumstances as a hindrance. “The first Friendly 1 Su-

permarket was established in 2009, as a small mom-and-pop and internet cafe store. Over the years we have grown and Friendly Plaza Supermarket is about people who work hard to make a humble living and to provide a variety of popular



Friendly Plaza Supermarket owner and president James Burke is always behind the counter and hands-on with the business and giving utmost customer care.

products for the public with friendly service,” he said. “The new Friendly Plaza Supermarket is spacious with everyday low prices. It has a kitchen with a snack area where you sit down, enjoy a cup of coffee or cold soda, and eat a bento. It also has a laundromat and a car rental for convenience. The supermarket temperature inside is a cool 68 degrees...nice to get away from the heat outside,” he added.

Burke said that they have the best after-sales service on the island. “We have all the grocery items, nine meat freezers, eight drink chillers, two big vegetables coolers, plus

a feeds section for livestock. Behind the marble check-out counter is a nice selection of spirits and wines and we also sell personal items among them are shoes, slippers etc..” “Whatever customers buy from the store and take home, we help take your groceries out and load them for you. We currently have ongoing promotions on beer, cigarettes, and an in-house raffle where we give away rice,” Burke added.

Friendly Plaza Supermarket is open from Monday to Sunday, 6am-9pm. For more information, call (670) 235-5580 and check their Facebook page.

For more information, call (670) 235-5580

Many businesses ask customers, workers to waive legal rights

WASHINGTON (AP)—As businesses reopen across the U.S. after coronavirus shutdowns, many are requiring customers and workers to sign forms saying they won’t sue if they catch COVID-19. Businesses fear they could be the target of litigation even if they adhere to safety precautions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state health officials. But workers’ rights groups say the forms force employees to sign away their rights should they get sick. The liability waivers, similar to what President Donald Trump’s campaign is requiring for people to attend a Saturday rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, would protect businesses in states that don’t have liability limits or immunity from coronavirus-related lawsuits. So far, at least five states — Utah, North Carolina, Okla-

homa, Arkansas and Alabama — have such limits through legislation or executive orders, and others are considering them. Business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are lobbying for national immunity legislation. The novel coronavirus has sickened more than 2 million people in the U.S. and killed more than 115,000, according to Johns Hopkins University. At Salon Medusa in West Hartford, Connecticut, hair stylist Lena Whelan says they’re using only two of six styling stations since reopening June 1. Customers have to wait outside, they have to wear masks, and all stations and tools are disinfected between clients. Despite all those safety measures, customers must sign a form saying they won’t sue if they get infected with the novel coronavirus. The form, which also asks patrons if they or any family members have virus symptoms, gives the salon extra legal protection, Whelan said. Critics argue that liability waivers open the door for corporations to skirt protocols like erecting Plexiglas barriers, providing face masks and other protective equipment, and keeping people the proper distance apart without suffering any repercussions. The waivers are particularly onerous for workers who may feel compelled to sign them in order to keep their jobs, unlike customers who at least have a choice to walk away. “It’s a terrible choice for an employee,” said Hugh Baran, an attorney with the National Employment Law Project, a worker advocacy group. “Do you sign this and potentially give up your legal recourse or do you refuse and feel like you are going to lose your job?”

House demands coronavirus loan info from Treasury, banks

WASHINGTON (AP)—A House subcommittee investigating billions of dollars in coronavirus aid is demanding that the Trump administration and some of the nation’s largest banks turn over detailed information about companies that applied for and received federal loans intended for small businesses. The requests Monday came after Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told Congress last week that the names of loan recipients and the amounts disbursed as part of the \$600 billion-plus Paycheck Protection Program are “proprietary information” and do not have to be made public. Democrats say there is nothing proprietary or confidential about businesses receiving millions of taxpayer dollars. The letters ask the banks, Treasury Department and the

Small Business Administration for a complete list of applicants for loans, whether they were approved and details on the guidance Treasury has issued. The subcommittee is also asking for communications between the government and the banks. Democrats say they are not receiving enough information about the loan disbursements and fear the Treasury Department has favored large, well-funded companies over smaller businesses in underserved communities. In the letters, the Democrats on the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis request that the banks “take immediate steps to ensure that remaining PPP funds are allocated to those businesses truly in need.” In the letter to Mnuchin and Small Business Administrator

Jovita Carranza, the Democrats urged more transparency “so American taxpayers can understand whether federal funds are helping vulnerable businesses and saving jobs, or are being diverted due to waste, fraud, and abuse.” The committee, which is headed by Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., sent the letters to executives of some of the largest lenders in the program, including JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, U.S. Bancorp, Bank of America, PNC Bank and Citigroup. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a Republican who heads the small business panel and pushed for creation of the loan program, said Monday that he has spoken to Mnuchin, and they are “working through” a way to ensure that the names of some loan recipients are made public.

STOCK
PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P
3,107.50
+34.50
+1.12%

DOW
26,205.00
+400.00
+1.55%

NASDAQ
9,893.50
+93.00
+0.95%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.44	Hong Kong Dollar	7.75	Russian Ruble	68.73
British Pound	0.79	Indian Rupee	75.32	Singapore Dollar	1.39
Canadian Dollar	1.35	Japanese Yen	107.41	South Korean Won	1,185.99
Chinese Yuan	6.97	Malaysian Ringgit	4.23	Swiss Franc	0.95
Euro	0.88	New Zealand Dollar	1.55	Taiwan Dollar	29.10
		Philippine Peso	49.15	Thailand Baht	31.11

Nation

Man shot during protest over Spanish conqueror's statue

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A man was shot Monday night as protesters in New Mexico's largest city tried to tear down a bronze statue of a Spanish conquistador outside the Albuquerque Museum, prompting the city to announce that the statue would be removed until officials determine the next steps.

The man was taken to a hospital but his condition was not immediately known, said Albuquerque police spokesman Gilbert Gallegos.

A confrontation erupted between protesters and a group of armed men who were trying to protect the statue of Juan de Oñate before protesters wrapped a chain around it and began tugging on it while chanting: "Tear it down." One protester repeatedly swung a pickaxe at the base of the statue.

Moments later a few gunshots could be heard down the street and people started yelling that someone had been shot.

Gallegos said police used tear gas and flash bangs to protect the officers and detain those involved in the shooting. He said they were disarmed and taken into custody for questioning as police worked to secure the scene. He said detectives will be investigating but he did not immediately release any other information.

"The shooting tonight was a tragic, outrageous and unacceptable act of violence and it has no place in our city," Mayor Tim Keller said in a statement. "Our diverse community will not be deterred by acts meant to divide or silence us. Our hearts go out the victim, his family and witnesses whose lives were needlessly threatened tonight. This sculpture has now become an ur-



This bronze statue of Don Juan de Oñate leading a group of Spanish settlers from an area near what is now Ciudad Chihuahua, Mexico, to what was then the northernmost province of New Spain in 1598 stands outside the Albuquerque Museum in Albuquerque, N.M., on Friday, June 12, 2020.

gent matter of public safety."

The violence came just hours after activists in northern New Mexico celebrated the removal of another likeness of Oñate that was on public display at a cultural center in the community of Alcalde. Rio Arriba County officials removed it to safeguard it from possible damage and to avoid civil unrest ahead of a scheduled protest.

A forklift pried the massive bronze statue of Oñate on horseback from a concrete pedestal. Cheers erupted among bystanders who saw the memorial as an affront to indigenous people and an obstacle to greater racial har-

mony, though several people also arrived to defend the tribute to Oñate.

County Manager Tomas Campos said the statue was placed in storage for its own protection. He expects the three-member county commission to solicit public comment on what to do next with the public works project commissioned by the state in the early 1990s.

"This is public property and I'm not going to allow it to be damaged," Campos said. "Plus, I don't feel like risking my sheriff's deputies or state police to defend it."

The Oñate statues have been a source of criticism for decades.

Oñate, who arrived in present-day New Mexico in 1598, is celebrated as a cultural father figure in communities along the Upper Rio Grande that trace their ancestry to Spanish settlers. But he's also reviled for his brutality.

To Native Americans, Oñate is known for having ordered the right feet cut off of 24 captive tribal warriors that was precipitated by the killing of Oñate's nephew. In 1998, someone sawed the right foot off the statue—an incident that weighed in the decision to stash away the statue.

Luis Peña of Espanola, an artist and computer network engineer, started a public peti-

tion last week to remove the statue in Alcalde. He said he was heartened to see it taken off display.

"It's about time," he said. "I think people are finding their voices. ... They can enact change and start the process of picking up all this trash that has been lying around for decades."

Removal of the statue was followed by a few heated roadside discussions about local colonial history, under the gaze of a half-dozen sheriff's deputies from Rio Arriba County.

Tony Valerio, 65, rushed to the site after a neighbor alerted him that statue was being taken down.

US revokes the emergency use of drugs touted by Trump vs. virus

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. regulators on Monday revoked emergency authorization for malaria drugs promoted by President Donald Trump for treating COVID-19 amid growing evidence they don't work and could cause serious side effects.

The Food and Drug Administration said the drugs hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine are unlikely to be effective in treating the coronavirus. Citing reports of heart complications, the FDA said the drugs' unproven benefits "do not outweigh the known and potential risks."

In a separate announcement, the FDA also warned doctors against prescribing the drugs in combination with remdesivir, the lone drug currently shown to help patients with COVID-19. The FDA said the anti-malaria drugs can reduce the effectiveness of remdesivir, which FDA cleared for emergency use in May.

Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine are frequently prescribed for lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, and can cause heart rhythm problems, severely low blood pressure and muscle or nerve damage. The agency reported Monday that it had received nearly 390 reports of complications with the drugs, including more than 100 involving serious heart problems. Such reports represent an incomplete snapshot of complications with the drugs because many side effects go unreported.

FDA's move means that shipments of the drugs obtained by the federal government will no longer be distributed to state and local health authorities for use against the coronavirus. The decades-old drugs are still available for alternate FDA-approved uses, so U.S. doctors could still prescribe them for COVID-19—a practice known as off-label prescribing.

Dr. Steven Nissen, a Cleveland Clinic researcher who has been a frequent FDA adviser, agreed with the decision and said he would not have granted emergency access in the first place.

"There has never been any high-quality evidence suggesting that hydroxychloroquine is effective" for treating or preventing coronavirus infection, he said, but there is evidence of serious side effects.

'When does it stop?' Slain man's family makes tearful plea

ATLANTA (AP)—Pleading through tears Monday, the family of a black man killed by Atlanta police outside a drive-thru demanded changes in the criminal justice system and called on protesters to refrain from violence amid heightened tensions across the U.S. three weeks after George Floyd's death in Minneapolis.

An autopsy found that 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks was shot twice in the back late Friday by a white officer who was trying to arrest him at a fast food restaurant for being intoxicated behind the wheel of his car. Brooks tried to flee after wrestling with officers and grabbing a stun gun from one of them.

"Not only are we hurt, we are angry," said Chassidy Evans, Brooks' niece.

"When does it stop? We're not only pleading for justice. We're pleading for change."

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced Monday that she was ordering changes to police use-of-force policies, including requiring that officers receive continuous training in how to deescalate situations and use those techniques before taking action that could be fatal. She said she also was requiring officers to intervene if they see a colleague using excessive force.

The mayor said that after Brooks' shooting, it was clear Atlanta did not have "another day, another minute, another hour to waste" in changing police practices.

Other cities nationwide are

taking similar steps, and packages of police reforms have been proposed or are emerging in Congress.

About 20 of Brooks' children, siblings, cousins and other family members sobbed at a news conference as over 1,000 people gathered not far away at an NAACP-led protest outside the Georgia Capitol.

Floyd's death May 25 after a white Minneapolis officer pressed his knee into the black man's neck touched off demonstrations and scattered violence across the U.S., and Brooks' killing rekindled those protests in Atlanta. The Wendy's restaurant where Brooks was shot was burned down over the weekend.

Evans said there was no reason for her uncle "to be shot and killed like trash in

the street for falling asleep in a drive-thru."

"Rayshard has a family who loves him who would have gladly come and got him so he would be here with us today," she said.

Relatives described Brooks as a loving father of three daughters and a stepson who had a bright smile and a big heart and loved to dance. His oldest daughter learned her father was slain while celebrating her eighth birthday with cupcakes and friends, wearing a special dress as she waited for Brooks to take her skating, said Justin Miller, an attorney for the family.

"There's no justice that can ever make me feel happy about what's been done," said Tomika Miller, Brooks' widow. "I can

never get my husband back. ... I can never tell my daughter he's coming to take you skating or for swimming lessons."

She asked those demonstrating to "keep the protesting peaceful," saying: "We want to keep his name positive and great."

Several Democratic lawmakers joined protesters and called for Georgia to pass reforms including the repeal of the state's citizen's arrest and stand-your-ground laws.

While some Republican leaders pushed back against swift action on some proposals, GOP House Speaker David Ralston endorsed rapid passage of a hate-crimes law, telling lawmakers that failure to act would be "a stain on this state we can never wash away."

Asia

HK delegate hoping for stability with security law

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's sole delegate to China's top legislative body said Monday that many Hong Kong residents support a new national security law being imposed by Beijing in the hopes that it will help the city regain stability, despite concerns that it will be used to curb opposition in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Tam Yiu Chung, Hong Kong's representative to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said that over 1.8 million Hong Kong citizens signed a petition last month indicating their support of the legislation.

"In the past year, many things have happened in Hong Kong, especially violent incidents," Tam said in an interview, referring to pro-democracy protests last year that often led to clashes between demonstrators and police. "Many citizens do not want to see such violence happening again."

"They put their hope in the Hong Kong security law—that if it can be launched and passed, it may lead our society back to stability," he said ahead of a Standing Committee meeting in Beijing later this week.

The national security legislation is aimed at curbing secessionist, subversive, terrorist and foreign interference activities that Beijing says fueled the monthslong anti-government protests. The Standing Committee has yet to put the legislation into

Hong Kong's constitution, known as the Basic Law, or offer details on it.

Tam, who was a window display designer in his youth and cut his teeth in politics by rising in the ranks of one of Hong Kong's largest trade unions, said he had initially supported the 1989 student-led pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square that were crushed by China's military with deadly force.

But while at first he saw students standing up to the government, he said "the nature of the incident turned to something else."

He said that if there currently are threats to national security in Hong Kong, the "one country, two systems" framework—under which the former British colony was given freedoms not found in mainland China following its return to Chinese control in 1997—will be difficult to keep intact.

Anti-government protests have picked up steam in recent weeks to oppose the new legislation.

On Monday, pro-democracy activist Lee Cheuk-yan sharply rebuked the law, as he and 14 other activists who were arrested on charges of organizing the protests last year showed up for their second court appearance.

"It is a total disruption of the rule of law that we cherish so much, and now they want to change it to complete rule by China," Lee said.

"The worst is still to come, but we will continue our struggle and we will be consistent in our goal of freedom and democracy in Hong Kong, and we will never give up," he added.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, issued a video statement Monday appealing to the city's people to support the legislation, saying that the "Hong Kong community has been traumatized" over the past year.

"Violence by rioters has escalated, with illegal firearms and explosives posing a terrorist threat," she said. "Groups and individuals advocating Hong Kong independence and colluding with foreign forces to interfere with Hong Kong's affairs have seriously undermined national interests and security."

She said the national security law will only target criminal acts, while protecting the basic rights and freedoms of the majority of citizens.

On Monday evening, hundreds of people turned up at a shopping mall in Admiralty, part of Hong Kong's business district, to pay tribute to a man, Marco Leung, who died on June 15 last year after falling from an elevated platform while unfurling a banner to protest an extradition bill that called for allowing suspects in Hong Kong to be sent to the mainland to stand trial. The bill, which had sparked the pro-democracy protests, was eventually scrapped.

Rappler case highlights decline of press freedoms globally

NEW YORK (AP)—The conviction of two Philippine journalists for libel is a blow to press freedom and comes as media watchdogs track declines in press freedoms and democratic institutions around the world.

A Manila court found Maria Ressa of the online news site Rappler Inc. and former reporter Reynaldo Santos Jr. guilty of libeling a wealthy businessman. Philippine officials have maintained that the criminal complaints against Ressa and Rappler are not a press freedom issue.

But the conviction is the latest move by the government to intimidate journalists, said Reporters Without Borders, which tracks press freedoms. It called Ressa's conviction a "shocking judicial masquerade."

Ostensibly democratic countries are using vague

laws to criminalize reporting, leading to more journalists in jail, while individual journalists more often find themselves at the mercy of social media harassment aimed at intimidating them, said Robert Mahoney, deputy executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

"Democracies are restricting press freedom more and more," he said.

Reporters Without Borders has cited a litany of challenges to press freedom, including a rise in authoritarian or populist regimes trying to suppress independent journalism, disinformation and laws against disinformation that are turned against media outlets. It also notes the financial pressures faced by many news outlets, as well as increased political polarization.

Freedom House, a U.S. nonprofit that tracks democ-

racies, says press freedoms are eroding as elected leaders in democracies seek to silence critical voices, efforts it links to a decline in democracy itself. More than half of the world's established democracies have "deteriorated" over the past 14 years, it says.

It cites Hungary, where Prime Minister Viktor Orban has "dropped any pretense of respecting democratic institutions." Orban's allies have taken control of much of the country's press. He had a coronavirus law passed that could mean up to five years in prison for false information.

In India, the ruling party has discouraged speech that is "antination," and there have been raids of journalists' homes and offices, Freedom House says. Journalists may face criminal prosecution for critical stories.

World



Relatives carry white balloons to the funeral of 72-year-old Monica Lagos at the Manantial cemetery in Santiago, Chile, Monday, June 15, 2020. AP

Rise in infections shows need for vigilance as world reopens

BERLIN (AP)—European countries reopened borders Monday after a three-month coronavirus shutdown, although international visitors are still being kept away and there was uncertainty over whether many Europeans will quickly embrace travel outside their home countries.

Reopening continued in Mexico and Brazil despite cases climbing in the two largest nations in Latin America, where authorities struggled to handle the pandemic's effect on already-weak medical systems. In the U.S., Vice President Mike Pence encouraged governors to highlight the "good news" around efforts to fight the virus despite several states reporting a rise in infections, which could intensify as people return to work and venture out during the summer.

The need for constant vigilance came into sharp focus as China, where COVID-19 first

emerged in December, rushed to contain an outbreak in the capital of Beijing.

The head of the World Health Organization said more than 100,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus have been reported globally each day in the last two weeks, and countries that have curbed transmissions "must stay alert to the possibility of resurgence."

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted that it took over two months to reach 100,000 reported cases, now a daily norm. Each day, nearly three-fourths of the new cases come from 10 countries—mostly in South Asia and the Americas, he said.

Pence said in a private call with governors that except for a few places, the U.S. is seeing strong drops in virus-related hospitalization and mortality rates. In audio of the call obtained by The Associated Press, Pence urged governors to make it clear to residents

that "there's a lot of really, really good news."

White House officials have played down the severity of the virus surge in places like Arizona and Texas. On Monday, the nation's second-most-populated state set a one-day high in hospitalizations of coronavirus patients for the seventh time in eight days. Arizona's hospitals were at about 82% capacity.

Meanwhile, Germany and France dropped border checks nearly two weeks after Italy opened its frontiers. Greece welcomed visitors Monday with passengers on flights from other European countries not having to undergo compulsory coronavirus tests.

The European Union's 27 nations and other European states aren't expected to start reopening to visitors from outside the continent until at least the beginning of July and possibly later.

UK begins trial of latest virus vaccine candidate this week

LONDON (AP)—Scientists at Imperial College London will start immunizing people in Britain this week with their experimental coronavirus shot, becoming the latest entry into the race to find an effective vaccine to stop the pandemic.

In a statement on Monday, the British government said 300 healthy people will be immunized with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed at Imperial, which has been backed by 41 million pounds (\$51 million) in government funding.

So far, the vaccine candidate developed by Imperial College London has only been tested in animals and in the laboratory, where it produced

much higher levels of antibodies than would normally be seen in infected people.

Many scientists have warned that the pandemic might only be stopped with an effective vaccine, which typically takes years to develop.

"In the long term, a viable vaccine could be vital for protecting the most vulnerable, enabling restrictions to be eased and helping people get back to normal life," said Robin Shattock, who is leading the vaccine research.

The vaccine uses synthetic strands of genetic code based on the virus. Once injected into the muscle, the body's own cells are instructed to make copies of a spiky protein on the

coronavirus. That should in turn trigger an immune response so that the body can fight off any future COVID-19 infection.

About a dozen vaccine candidates are currently in early stages of testing in thousands of people. There are no guarantees any will work but there's increasing hope that at least some could be ready by the end of the year. Oxford University recently began an advanced study involving 10,000 volunteers, and the U.S. is preparing for even larger studies in July that involve 30,000 people each testing different candidates, including Oxford's and one made by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc.

Good Housekeeping



(JOAQUIN CORBALAN/DREAMTIME/TNS)
A substantially altered workplace situation amid the coronavirus pandemic begs the question — how much of this change is permanent?

Will working from home become permanent? Answers from the experts

By PHILLIP MOLNAR
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Mark Zuckerberg is moving Facebook toward a substantially remote workforce over the next decade, making changes permanent that began in the past few months.

Within 10 years, Zuckerberg told The Wall Street Journal he expects as much as half of Facebook's employees—who currently number more than 45,000—to work from home.

There are also many other examples of working from home becoming the norm: Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey recently told employees they could work from home permanently. Other smaller tech companies have announced similar proposals.

Q: Will other major corporate players eventually shift away from offices?

Gary London, London Moder Advisors

NO: At least not over the long term. Until a vaccine is applied, certainly liberal work-at-home options will be all the rage. Post vaccine, I expect that much of the work force will return to their office,

albeit in different ways. I think we will see a great prevalence of flex hours, shared or 'hotel-ing' space and other innovations in our work space and time. This will translate into somewhat lower levels of demand for office space. But I do not expect that most companies will abandon the office, where ideas and networks are hatched and enhanced, for the isolation of the home, Zoom or no Zoom.

YES: It has been quite an eye opener to most employers how quickly and successfully their entire staffs have transitioned to working remotely. And now that the technology is in place it is very easy to reinvent what their workforce should look like. But there is a broad range of working and remote options. From jobs where eye contact with the client is essential to workers, to staff being based anywhere in the world, and everything in between. What combination is right for what businesses will be finessed over the next several years.

YES: Many companies are finding out that they can be successful even with their

employees working at home. Allowing employees to work from home reduces the need for costly office space and will be beneficial to workers who want the flexibility that working from home allows. There are negative ramifications for the economy in terms of businesses that cater to people who work in offices, such as restaurants and clothing stores. There is also some worry about the impact of social isolation.

YES: The shift to employees working away from offices ushered by COVID-19 has accelerated an already emerging trend. Measuring outcomes, companies are likely to cite operating savings, reduced employee commuting (helping the environment, too), and more time on tasks that yield increased productivity. Companies probably will not have a 100% away from office policy, but some periodic teaming in the workplace. Employers must be conscious to maintain innovative thinking with increased use of virtual platforms.

YES: The pandemic has demonstrated that remote and decentralized workforces can

operate effectively, although more for some than others. Employees may be able to stay in parts of the country closer to family members with lower housing prices, while firms can save on the high wage costs of large cities. Firms may allow employees to work some days in the office and other days from home. Giving workers more options should raise job satisfaction and their productivity.

YES: Remote work has long been a trend and the pandemic only accelerated its adoption. I have worked remotely (including with co-founders) for the past eight years. There is a limit, as only certain types of work can be done remotely, and even then, important aspects of team rapport, happenstance, cross-team conversations, etc. can be lost. It will be interesting to see the impacts as more companies get comfortable with the distance. Reliance on tech to communicate and monitor seems obvious, but how will this impact urbanization?

YES: Working from home is popular with today's employees as it provides for a better work/life balance. Technology

companies will default to this remote option more than others but office interactions are critical to productivity. Naturally, this will be a blow to office space if it happens too quickly but this virus has jump-started lots of changes. Many of the changes will occur due to financial considerations as we enter a fairly deep recession.

N/A: Yes and No. Some firms can easily transition to working at home like call centers for airlines or computer support, or when most workers are in sales, out and about. Many back-office functions such as book keeping and admin support can be done remotely. But, where innovation, collaboration, team work, mentoring, and escaping from kids at home matter, not to mention the serendipitous meeting, then these functions will be better served in the in-person office, at least for now.

YES: There are big set-up costs in figuring out how to do things online. But once you've worked out the details, it's an option that can be used even when we return to normal. There will be pressure to hold down expenses for some time,

and cutting back on business travel is one way to do that. For the time being, I'm not sure we have any alternative but to try to minimize face-to-face interaction.

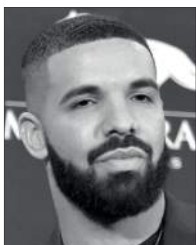
YES: Multiple factors will drive the transition of work away from traditional offices for some businesses. These include demand to work remotely by employees who prefer to live in less expensive locations and want to avoid long commutes. Businesses can recruit employees from anywhere and save by renting less office space. Organizational ability to use tools to work remotely will increase rapidly during 2020 and will improve even more once 5G technology becomes the norm.

YES: Although not all jobs can be done remotely, the biggest lesson learned from the pandemic is that technology has enabled many people to be productive without being in an office. Companies big and small will likely start to reconsider office space costs and the approach to hiring new talent. The definition of the "best" fit candidate will no longer be determined by geography.

Life & Style

Drake tops BET Awards nods; show to air on CBS for 1st time

NEW YORK (AP)—Drake is the leading nominee at the 2020 BET Awards, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary later this month.



BET announced Monday that Drake is nominated for six honors, including video of the year and best male hip-hop artist. For both best collaboration and the viewer's choice award, Drake is nominated twice thanks to the hits "No Guidance" with Chris Brown and "Life Is Good" with Future.

The 2020 BET Awards will air live on June 28 across ViacomCBS networks, including CBS for the first time. The show, which will be a virtual celebration because of the coronavirus pandemic, will also air on BET and BET HER.

Breakthrough rappers Megan Thee Stallion and Roddy

Ricch follow Drake with five nominations each. Megan Thee Stallion, who recently topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart with her Beyoncé-assisted "Savage" remix, is nominated for video of the year, best female hip-hop artist, best collaboration, the viewer's choice award and album of the year for "Fever."

Ricch, who won his first Grammy Award earlier this year, also topped the pop charts with his upbeat hit "The Box." The video for that song is nominated for video of the year alongside DaBaby's "Bop," DJ Khaled, Nipsey Hussle and John Legend's "Higher," Doja Cat's "Say So," Megan Thee Stallion's "Hot Girl Summer" and Chris Brown and Drake's "No Guidance."

Beyoncé, Minaj, Brown, Lizzo and DaBaby earned four nominations each.

Givenchy appoints American Matthew Williams as new designer

PARIS (AP)—French fashion house Givenchy has named American designer Matthew Williams as its new creative director, its third in three years. The appointment is effective from Tuesday.

Coming two months after the departure of Clare Waight Keller, Williams' appointment signals a new direction for the once-classical Parisian stalwart that used to be associated with the demure styles of Audrey Hepburn.

drey Hepburn.

Williams, 34, has collaborated with Kanye West and Lady Gaga, and founded street-wear line 1017 Alyx 9SM in 2015. He is reported not to have formal design training.

In a statement Monday, Williams said he was looking forward to working with Givenchy "to move it into a new era, based on modernity and inclusivity."

He added: "In these unprec-

Academy delays 2021 Oscars ceremony because of coronavirus

For the fourth time in its history, the Oscars are being postponed. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the ABC Television Network said Monday that the 93rd Academy Awards will now be held April 25, 2021, eight weeks later than originally planned because of the pandemic's effects on the movie industry.

The Academy's Board of

Governors also decided to extend the eligibility window beyond the calendar year to Feb. 28, 2021, for feature films, and delay the opening of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures from December until April 30, 2021.

"Our hope, in extending the eligibility period and our Awards date, is to provide the flexibility filmmakers need to finish and release their films

without being penalized for something beyond anyone's control," said Academy President David Rubin and Academy CEO Dawn Hudson in a joint statement.

Karey Burke, the president of ABC Entertainment, added: "We find ourselves in uncharted territory this year and will continue to work with our partners at the Academy to ensure next year's show is a safe

and celebratory event."

The 12th annual Governors Awards has also been canceled. The event, in which honorary Oscars are bestowed to previously announced recipients, is generally held in Los Angeles during the second week of November. The untelevised event is a major gathering for many of the year's awards hopefuls. (AP)

PBS invites you to come up sometime and see a Mae West doc

NEW YORK (AP)—Before there was Cher or Madonna, Beyoncé or Rihanna, there was another savvy media star who unapologetically embraced her sex appeal and femininity.

That would be Mae West, the bawdy, witty, sex symbol of the 1930s who pioneered a path for modern women with guts and a nod and a wink.

"Mae West: Dirty Blonde," the first major documentary film on this cultural figure, makes its world premiere Tuesday on PBS, and attempts to look beyond West's famous gowns, curves and jewels.

"She really does belong in the pantheon of great, strong American women. She's just been forgotten. So we wanted to shine a bit of a light on what she achieved," said Sally Rosenthal, who co-directed and co-produced the film with Julia Marchesi.

The film, executive produced by Bette Midler, traces West's origins in vaudeville, her leap to Broadway as performer and playwright, her Hollywood debut as a sex symbol at age 40, and her last acts as Vegas nightclub star in her 60s and camp icon in her 80s.

It's a remarkable life: Despite having only a third grade education, West wrote her own plays and screenplays and rarely delegated any detail. She launched Cary Grant's career, was sentenced to prison and became the second highest paid person in the entire country, behind only William Randolph Hearst.

Many of her witticisms have been embraced, including "When I'm good, I'm very good, but when I'm bad, I'm better" and "Between two evils, I always choose the one



This image released by PBS shows Mae West in a scene from the 1933 film "I'm No Angel."

I've never tried before."

"She was this incredibly smart woman who had a message about power and sexuality and gender. And she found a way to get people to listen to her, and that was to make them laugh," Marchesi said.

As the filmmakers peeled back layers to West, they discovered more than just a sex siren who was playing almost a parody of a sex siren. They found a woman embodying female empowerment who

was giving subtle nods to lift up African Americans and the gay community.

West wrote the 1927 play "The Drag," which dealt with homosexuality and cross-dressing, and later penned the movie "I'm No Angel," in which her character sings, dances and gossips about men with several black maids, unheard of in 1933. She also insisted, over objections from the movie studio, that Duke Ellington and his band be hired for "It Ain't No Sin."

Wife stunned to discover husband's weighty fetish

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I married two years ago. A year later we welcomed our first child. I never imagined I would ever want a divorce. Well, I found out early this year that my husband has a fetish/fantasy about bigger women. (He actually said it.) He is a "feeder." He has purchased books related to these things and watches videos and reads stories about it while sitting next to me on the couch! It turns him on. He has asked me to consider gaining weight. I told him he needs help.

I made an appointment for him to see a therapist, and am forcing him to go. I feel cheated on and disrespected. I don't know how to handle this bomb he dropped on me. I don't know how to be with someone who has such a strong impulse. I hate to feel at fault for walking away and breaking up our family, but I can't go along with this and risk my health. I also don't know how to live apart from him. Any help is appreciated.

WIFE OF A FEEDER

DEAR WIFE: Your husband should have discussed this with you before you married. Gaining weight to feed your husband's fetish would not be healthy for you physically or—feeling as you do—emotionally.

Because you already have a licensed mental health professional in your database, schedule an appointment for yourself to help you rationally decide what you need to do. (Can your husband be content to have his fantasy but not involve you?) You may not want to "feel at fault" for walk-

ing away, but you aren't going to change him, and your first responsibility must be to maintain your health so you can parent your child to adulthood.

DEAR ABBY: This has been weighing on me for a long time. A guy I've known for years receives tons of food from a food pantry his sister runs. It sickens me because he's financially set. He brags to me about never ever having to buy groceries again. I think about the children and families who are in need of food during these terrible times. He is the worst kind of cheapskate and doesn't like spending money on anything.

Obviously, if his sister is allowing this, she is doing the same thing. I told him he should be ashamed of himself for taking advantage of this program. His response was that he served our country, so he's entitled! (He was dishonorably discharged after seven months.) He truly feels the food is owed to him. This has been bothering me for a long time and, to be honest, I wish he had never told me.

DISGUSTED IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR DISGUSTED: And your question is? Those two appear to have no conscience. Contact the head of the organization that sponsors the food bank and tell the person what you have written to me. I don't think I'm being too harsh to point out that "Sissy" is guilty of theft by funneling food to her brother and preventing a needy family from having it. Shameless.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: Is it possible to be in love with someone who is incarcerated?

ROMANTIC IN TEXAS

DEAR ROMANTIC: Yes. However, it depends upon the length of the relationship and whether you met the person before he or she was incarcerated. If you knew the person before, it is possible. However, if your relationship began while he or she was serving time, it is extremely important that you verify ANYthing you are being told and refrain from sending the person money.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

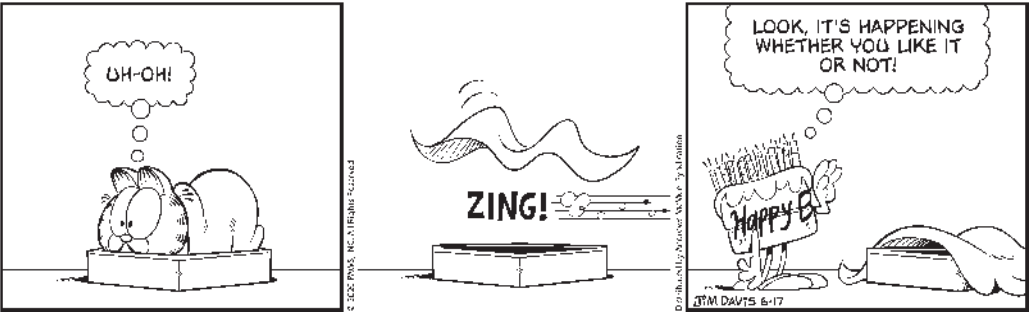
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



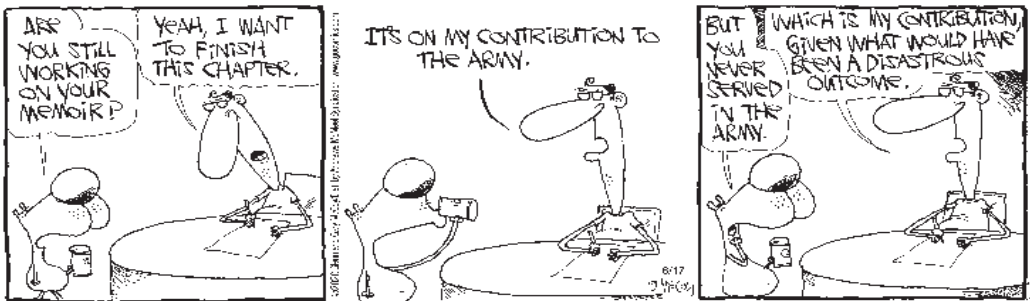
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 27 Recede 28 Dianne of "The Bird-cage" 30 Buddy 33 Tens, at some sports events 36 Actress Brennan 37 Cologne's river 38 Old photo tint 39 French river 40 Objectivist Rand 41 Stir-fry pan

DOWN 14 En-grossed 15 Junior 19 Last letter in London 20 Mornings (Abbr.) 21 "Tiny Alice" playwright 22 Rubbish 23 Church service 24 Lose face 25 Vigor 26 Insurance giant 28 Lachrymose 29 Strand during a blizzard 30 Invigorating 31 Painter Magritte 32 Sugary suffix 34 Dog bane 35 Columbus home

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Venus Williams, 40; Will Forte, 50; Greg Kinnear, 57; Barry Manilow, 77.

Happy Birthday: Make your intentions clear, and hold yourself responsible for any error made this year. Leave nothing to chance or unfinished. Distance yourself from anyone who doesn't share your beliefs/interests. Direct passage to your goal will save you time, money and regret. Choose your friends and associates wisely and share only what's necessary. Your numbers are 8, 11, 20, 27, 31, 34, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your physical well-being first. If you need rest, take a nap. If you are feeling unfit, start an exercise routine. If you want to lift your spirits, pamper yourself. Your happiness is your responsibility. If you want to change, take the initiative. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think, prepare and pursue your plans. A change will give you the boost you need to make things happen. Set up a video conference with people who can offer good advice and experience to help you excel. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take your time, and go over every detail before you make a move. Question anything or anyone who doesn't seem right. It's better to play it safe and get things right the first time. Someone will disappoint you if you are too revealing. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Embrace change, and make it work for you. Look for a way to make your surroundings more appealing, entertaining and clear. Designate a space for self-improvement, a home spa, a workout area or a baking nook -- whatever makes you happy. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't leap into something too quickly. Give yourself a chance to crunch the numbers and determine if what someone is trying to persuade you to do is in your best interest. Don't rush; time is on your side. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a virtual tour to a place that intrigues you. It will prompt you to order in from a restaurant that offers traditional cuisine from that area of the world. A cultural experience will enhance your life and help you broaden your outlook. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's difficult to abide by rules that don't fit your personality. Be creative, and you'll discover new ways to enjoy spending more time at home. Take an online course that will update your skills or teach you something new. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Express your opinions. Take part in finding solutions and making a difference. A change of heart will help you make adjustments to the way you do things. Don't trust someone with your possessions, assets or passwords. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll face opposition if you don't abide by the rules. Review suggestions made by those setting the regulations, and you'll find a way to make the most with what you are allowed to pursue. Nurture meaningful relationships. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider ways to make your environment user-friendly. Enhance your surroundings, add to your entertainment center or come up with novel ways to spend time with those who live with you. Talks will lead to positive change. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An honest approach regarding the way you look or feel about yourself will lead to physical and financial adjustments that are geared toward a better you and a brighter future. Set up a routine that helps push you toward a healthier lifestyle. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Reinvent how you use your skills, knowledge and experience to serve the current job trends. Making yourself readily available to help those in need will help you maintain a healthy cash flow. The change will turn out to be life altering and profitable. ****

Birthday Baby: You are intense, conscientious and determined. You are creative and exciting. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

				4	1	8	
			2				
	1	4	9	5	6	2	
8	5			3		4	9
4							7
3							6
5							1
	4					3	
		9	4	7	1	5	

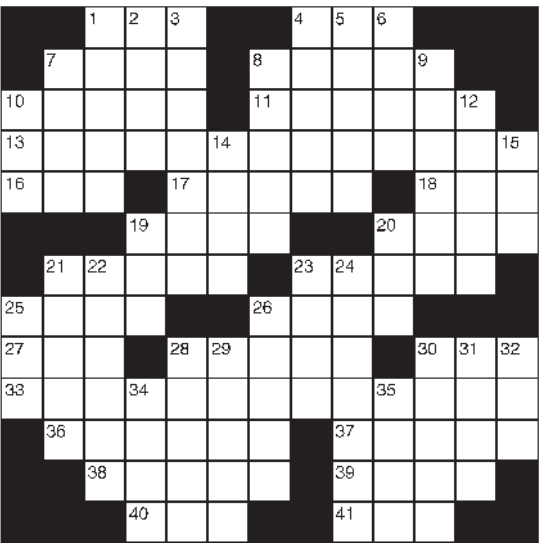
Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	2	9	4	5	3	7	6	1
1	3	7	9	6	8	2	4	5
4	5	6	1	2	7	3	8	9
5	8	1	2	3	4	6	9	7
9	7	4	6	8	1	5	2	3
3	6	2	7	9	5	4	1	8
6	4	8	3	7	9	1	5	2
2	9	3	5	1	6	8	7	4
7	1	5	8	4	2	9	3	6

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Standoff puts baseball season in jeopardy



NEW YORK
(AP)—Base-

ball Commissioner Rob Manfred says there might be no major league games this year after a breakdown in talks between teams and the players' union on how to split up money in a season delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Two days after union head Tony Clark declared additional negotiations futile, Manfred reversed his position of last week when he said he was "100%" certain the 2020 season would start.

Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem sent a seven-page letter to players' association chief negotiator Bruce Meyer asking the union whether it will waive the threat of legal action and tell MLB to announce a spring training report date and a regular-season schedule.

These were just the latest escalating volleys in a sport viewing disagreements over starting the season as a preliminary battle ahead of bargaining to replace the labor contract that expires on Dec. 1, 2021.

"It's just a disaster for our game, absolutely no question about it," Manfred said during an appearance on ESPN. "It shouldn't be happening, and it's important that we find a way to get past it and get the game back on the field for the benefit of our fans."

Spring training was stopped because of the pandemic on March 12, two weeks before opening day, and the sides reached an agreement March 26 on how to revise their labor deal to account for the virus.

Since then, the hostility has escalated to 1990s levels as the sides exchanged offers. MLB claims teams can't afford to play without fans and pay the prorated salaries called for in the March deal, which included a provision for "good-faith" negotiations over the possibility of games in empty ballparks or neutral sites.

"The proliferation of COVID-19 outbreaks around the country over the last week, and the fact that we already know of several 40-man roster players and staff who have tested positive, has increased the risks associated with commencing spring training in the next few weeks," Halem wrote in his letter to Meyer, which was obtained by the AP.

Halem sent Meyer a letter with a sarcastic tone Friday accompanying MLB's latest offer, and Meyer responded with a hostile timbre Saturday as the sides memorialized positions ahead of a possible grievance before the panel chaired by independent arbitrator Mark Irvings. Halem's letter Monday



In this Feb. 22, 2020 file photo, Washington Nationals starting pitcher Max Scherzer (31) works against the Houston Astros during a spring training baseball game in West Palm Beach, Fla. AP

asked the union for many clarifications of its positions.

"I note that both the NBA and NHL, two leagues which you repeatedly reference in your letter, do not intend to resume play until about Aug. 1, and both intend to resume play at a limited number of sites with a quarantine approach," Halem wrote. "Please let us know the association's views on quarantining players in league-approved hotels (like the NBA's Disney World model) when they are not at the ballpark if conditions worsen over the next few weeks."

Clark had issued a statement Saturday that told MLB: "It's time to get back to work. Tell us when and where."

The union then said it might file a grievance seeking additional economic documents and money damages that could total \$1 billion or more.

"Players are disgusted that after Rob Manfred unequivocally told players and fans that there would '100%' be a 2020 season, he has decided to go back on his word and is now threatening to cancel the entire season," Clark said in a statement Monday.

"This latest threat is just one more indication that Major League Baseball has been negotiating in bad faith since the beginning," Clark added. "This has always been about extracting additional pay cuts from players and this is just another day and another bad faith tactic in their ongoing campaign."

Manfred said ahead of last

week's amateur draft that the chance of a season was "100%."

He reversed his position Monday.

"I'm not confident. I think there's real risk; and as long as there's no dialogue, that real risk is going to continue," Manfred said on ESPN. "The owners are 100% committed to getting baseball back on the field. Unfortunately, I can't tell you that I'm 100% certain that's going to happen."

Players think Manfred is delaying to shorten the schedule — and their pay.

"So, Rob, explain to us how you can be 100% sure that there's going to be baseball but not confident there will be baseball at the same time?"

Cincinnati pitcher Trevor Bauer tweeted. "The tactic is to bluff with 'no season' again and delay another 2-3 weeks."

Halem asked the union for written permission to go ahead with the season.

"Rob Manfred and the owners are walking back on their word...AGAIN," tweeted Washington pitcher Max Scherzer, a member of the union's eight-man executive subcommittee. "The fans do not deserve this. So I'll say it one more time, tell us when and where."

MLB has made three economic offers, the last offering to guarantee players 70% of their salaries as part a 72-game schedule beginning July 14 and increasing the total to 80%

if the postseason is completed.

Players previously offered two proposals, holding their position that no additional pay cuts were acceptable beyond the prorated salaries for 2020 that they had agreed to in March. That deal called for \$170 million in salary advances and a guarantee of service time credit if no games are played this year.

Manfred had threatened a shorter schedule, perhaps of about 50 games. The union could respond by filing a grievance, arguing players should be paid for the season of 119 games they initially proposed. The union's first plan would result in salaries of nearly \$3 billion.

Players are angry following five years of flat salaries, a lost grievance claiming the Chicago Cubs manipulated the service time of star third baseman Kris Bryant in violation of the labor contract and allegations several teams did not properly use revenue sharing proceeds, which the union called "tanking."

Players hope to see documents detailing regional sports networks' agreements with teams, financial interests of MLB owners in RSNs and real estate ventures adjacent to ballparks, plus MLB affiliated companies such as the MLB Network, MLB Advanced Media and BAM Tech. During a grievance, they would ask Irvings to order document production.

MLB players, coaches have tested positive for COVID-19

Several MLB players and coaches have tested positive for COVID-19, according to USA Today's Bob Nightengale. The league informed the players union on Monday.

Nightengale obtained a copy of a letter from MLB deputy commissioner Dan Halem to MLBPA lead attorney Bruce Meyer. In the letter, Halem noted the positive tests and fears over a second coronavirus wave this fall are reasons why the league doesn't want to run a schedule beyond October.

In the letter, Halem also denies the union's assertion that MLB is stalling to play fewer games in an effort to save money.

"Your recent letters have all expressed the concern, in one form or another, that players are being 'asked to take on extraordinary burdens and risks in the current environment. However, the association's proposals to play as many games as possible, as deep into the fall as possible, increases the health risks to players and staff, which is not something we are prepared to do," Halem said.

"We strongly disagree with your assertion that our concern about player health and safety in the midst of the greatest health crisis in our lifetime is a 'pretext' to play fewer games. As you are aware, while the language in [the March 26 agreement]

states that the Office of the Commissioner will use 'best efforts to play as many games as possible,' a very important qualifier to that provision is that the schedule must take into account 'player safety and health,'" he added.

In recent weeks, the union proposed playing a regular season through October with a November postseason (at neutral sites, if needed). MLB rejected that proposal and the union has since put an end to negotiations altogether.

The expectation was commissioner Rob Manfred would use his power (per a March agreement between the league and union) to mandate a regular season of

50ish games. However, he told ESPN on Monday he's "not confident" there will be a 2020 season at all. Some have speculated the timing of his comments is to avoid the union filing a grievance against MLB for not negotiating in good faith to play as many games as possible.

Nationals reliever Sean Doolittle questioned the timing of the positive tests being revealed.

"Wait...they leaked information about player health to the AP? First, I hope everyone is feeling ok and recovering well. But the timing of this leak is suspicious and it feels really gross," Doolittle said. (AP/NBC)

Goodell encourages teams to sign Kaepernick



NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Goodell would like to see Colin Kaepernick back in the NFL this season.

The NFL commissioner said during ESPN's "The Return of Sports" special on Monday that he is encouraging teams to sign the 32-year old quarterback, who hasn't played the past three seasons. Kaepernick was with the San Francisco 49ers in 2016 when he kneeled during the national anthem to protest racial injustice.

"If he wants to resume his career in the NFL, then obviously it's gonna take a team to make that decision. I welcome that, support a club making that decision and encourage them to do that," Goodell said during his interview with ESPN's Mike Greenberg.

Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said last week that he received a call from another team about Kaepernick. Carroll and the Seahawks brought in Kaepernick for a workout in 2017 and had another planned in 2018 before it was canceled.

Goodell set up a tryout for Kaepernick in Atlanta last year for scouts of all 32 teams to attend, but it unraveled at the last moment due to lack of media access and what Kaepernick's representatives saw as an unusual liability waiver. Instead of the workout taking place at the Falcons' training complex, Kaepernick conducted an impromptu session at a high school in front of media and scouts from eight teams.

The NFL released a video on June 5 in which Goodell apologized for the league for not doing a good job of listening to concerns by players on racial inequality. Goodell though was roundly criticized for the apology not mentioning Kaepernick.

The video came out a day



In this Jan. 1, 2017 file photo, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) warms up before an NFL game against the Seattle Seahawks in Santa Clara, California.

after many players released a video criticizing the league for not condemning racism following the May 25 death of George Floyd.

"We had spent time prior to that understanding all the frustration, fear and sadness. When the video came out on Thursday it was very powerful. It was appropriate for me to respond," Goodell said. "We should have listened to our players earlier including Colin Kaepernick, Eric Reid, Kenny Stills, Malcolm Jenkins and so many people really brought these issues to light."

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan said Goodell's video was a great step in the right direction.

"We all need to be on the same page and address some of the uncomfortable things that need addressed," he said.

Goodell did not answer how the league would respond if President Donald Trump continued to criticize them if players kneeled for the National Anthem. Goodell also said that he wants to include Kaepernick's voice on how the league should approach social issues.

"I hope we're at a point now where everybody's committed to making long-term, sustainable change," Goodell said. "If his efforts are not on the field but continuing to work in this space, we welcome him to that table and to help us, guide us, help us make better decisions about the kinds of things that need to be done in the communities."

NBA commissioner Adam Silver said when the league gathers at the Disney campus it would provide an opportunity for the league to do more to promote social and societal change—especially since players, who will be confined to the campus, will have plenty of free time on their hands and with what's expected to

be a sizable media contingent present.

"How can we use our larger platform, the NBA together with our players, really to affect change?" Silver asked. "There's an appropriate role, of course, for protests. There's an appropriate role for those who choose not to engage in the game of basketball down in Florida. But ... for those who decide to come, together with the league, what are those things we can be doing?"

Another interesting point in what Silver said was the acknowledgement that some players may choose not to go to the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex for the restart of the season. A group of players, led by Kyrie Irving, has made it clear in recent days that they want their colleagues to think about the ramifications of playing at a time of racial and social unrest.

Portland guard Damian Lillard has been part of a protest and said he hopes that people realize "that the black community has had enough" when it comes to injustice. But he also said he plans to play, even though he expressed some reservations about how safe it will be from a health perspective.

"This is what we do. This is our job," Lillard said. "And this is how we take care of our families. And this is my way of providing for communities and impacting my community. So to play the game I love, to resume the season, I guess it's a risk I'm willing to take."

Goodell, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and MLS commissioner Don Garber acknowledged there will be positive tests once their sports return, but that they are hoping to isolate those as quickly as possible along with aggressive use of contact tracing.



SWITZERLAND (AP)—

FIFA appealed Monday for "tolerance, mutual respect and common sense" after U.S. President Donald Trump denounced the annulment of a policy that required soccer players to stand during the national anthem.

"I won't be watching much anymore!" Trump tweeted Saturday.

Trump retweeted a tweet by Florida Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz, who wrote: "I'd rather the US not have a soccer team than have a soccer team that won't stand for the National Anthem."

It was United States captain Megan Rapinoe kneeling in support of Colin Kaepernick that led to the U.S. Soc-

FIFA urges 'tolerance' after Trump's anthem kneeling rebuke

cer Federation adopting the rule in 2017. It was annulled last week after American soccer leaders acknowledged a change in sentiment among the public since the death of George Floyd sparked global anti-racism protests.

"FIFA strongly advocates for tolerance, mutual respect and common sense when such important matters are debated," world soccer's governing body said in a statement to The Associated Press when asked about Trump's comments. "FIFA has a zero-tolerance approach to incidents of all forms of discrimination in football, as outlined in the FIFA Statutes. We must all say no to racism and no to violence."

FIFA President Gianni In-

fantino introduced Trump at a dinner at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in January, expressing a desire to "make sure that the 'American dream' becomes reality, not only in America, as we have seen, but all over the world."

In response to Trump's tweet, FIFA said Infantino's "position on the player's rights to express themselves against racism, discrimination and violence was clearly stated two weeks ago and it has not changed."

Infantino signaled support for on-field protests after American midfielder Weston McKennie wore an armband while playing for Schalke in Germany with the handwritten message "Justice for George"

around his left arm.

Racial reckoning

Meanwhile, when the time came to vote on restarting the Premier League, no black chief executives or chairmen from the English clubs were involved. There aren't any across the 20 teams, nor in the leadership of the world's richest league.

As the league's 100-day pandemic-enforced shutdown ends on Wednesday, a competition that prides itself on attracting multicultural talent from across the world on the field, is facing a racial reckoning.

There are owners or chief executives of Asian, Indian or Middle Eastern heritage. But the lack of black leaders

across the Premier League has appeared jarring amid a groundswell of activism by players demanding an end to inequalities, roused by the brutal police killing of George Floyd in the United States.

"It raises all that exclusion, inequality, injustice," Paul Elliott, the former Chelsea player now chairing the English Football Association's Inclusion Advisory Board, told The Associated Press. "It's been that bridge, that catalyst for the injustice, the unconscious bias, given the popularity of the participants of football being around 30% black and very few in the administrative, executive and boardroom areas."

Players of all races have

already taken a knee as entire squads at training grounds across England. Over the next week, they will take to the field at Premier League stadiums wearing "Black Lives Matter" instead of their names on the back of jerseys.

"The knee and the solidarity behind that will eventually phase out," Elliott said. "But the problem is still going to be here with us. Then it's about a cogent, coherent strategy across football—from the touchline to the boardroom. There has to be a whole reset and accountability."

Especially in a season when a Premier League game was paused for the first time for warnings about racial abuse in the stands when Tottenham played Chelsea in December.

Silver: Restart plan 'may not be for everyone'



NEW YORK—It is not something happily slapped together. NBA commissioner Adam Silver worked on a restart plan with owners, the players union, television partners, and potential hosts. Everyone settled on a 22-team restart plan with some "seeding games" on the front end, a play backed by NBA owners and the players' union.

Now a coalition of players led by Kyrie Irving and Avery Bradley have questions about the plan, how it meshes with the social justice movement many NBA players are committed to, and the details of how players' health and safety will be protected.

Silver's reaction? "I can only say it may not be for everyone."

It's not an ideal situation."

"It will entail enormous sacrifice on behalf of those players and for everyone involved ..."

Silver was part of ESPN's "The Return of Sports" and was speaking with Mike Greenberg about the NBA's return plan. He acknowledged the issues players have but also sounded an optimistic tone.

"My sense is we're gonna be able to work through most of those issues the next few weeks," he said.

Silver, as always, was measured with his words and projected an air of confidence that the NBA could pull the restart together. He also said again it's basically the best of a lot of bad options left by the coronavirus pandemic. He understands not every player



In this March 8, 2020 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James drives to the basket during their NBA game against the Los Angeles Clippers in California.

the plan or are asking hard questions about it.

"I think it would be stupid to not play for two reasons. Number one, if they don't play they're going to be out of sight, out of mind for the rest of the year. There won't be no cameras following. LeBron [James] is probably the most famous athlete in the United States. He won't be visible anywhere. So, out of sight, out of mind," Barkley said.

"Also, these guys got to realize this money is going to come back, and they're going to lose billions of dollars that the players could use to go into their own communities and do some great stuff. So it's not good on any front. I have no idea what Kyrie and Dwight [Howard] are talking about. But it would be a catastrophic mistake not to play," he added.

Barkley's opinions are often a blunt object, which makes great television, but don't always get at the nuance of a situation. Questions about how the NBA's return impacts social justice causes, plus players' health concerns and wanting to see the league's full plan in detail are all very legitimate issues.

National Basketball Players Association Executive Director Michelle Roberts put it well, speaking to ESPN's Ramona Shelburne and Adrian Wojnarowski.

will want to go to Orlando and said they will not be in breach of their contract — there will be no punishment for players who choose not to go, but they will not be paid, either—but sounds like he believes most will.

Barkley: It's 'catastrophic' not to finish season

A coalition of NBA players is leading an intense debate about whether they should restart the NBA season down in Orlando, whether to follow the NBA and players' union or if it would be better for social justice movements and their own health just to stay home.

Charles Barkley has an opinion about that. Shocking.

Barkley went on ESPN's Get Up and talked about the restart and the conference call by players who either oppose

"I took the other way because I felt like I am not done with tennis yet. I have time to grow and things to improve," Sinclair said.

After finishing college, the 2019 NMSA Athlete of the Year competed in pro tournaments in Europe, U.S., Australia, and Asia. The gamble produced five straight finals appearances in 2018 and a pro title in 2019. Sinclair also reached a career-high ranking of 410 in the ATP, over \$32,000 prize money, and three gold medals plus one silver in last year's Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

"That (winning for the CNMI in the Pacific Games) was very special," said Sinclair, who is now in Canada for a much-deserved break, as he awaits the resumption of play in the ATP and ITF.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, players Colin Sinclair, Robbie Schorr, and Ken Song, and coach Jeff Race are all smiles as they show the gold medals presented to them at the awards ceremony for the XVI Pacific Games last year in Samoa.

RACE

From Page 20

spot was taken by another player, who incidentally was slated to join Cornell.

"So we sort of swap places," said Sinclair, who had to challenge one of Cornell's junior player when he visited the school to earn his slot on the squad.

"The coach did not know me, so it really felt good that I was able to show him what I can do," Sinclair said.

After completing his stint with Cornell and just when people were expecting that he could call it a career, Sinclair decided to keep on playing and this time join the pro tours (both the ATP and ITF).

Race noted that most college players don't pursue pro competitions after graduation and instead focus on new career.

NATIONAL

From Page 20

kicking the ball. Each group will be using different sets of balls and disinfection will be done after each use," NMIFA said in response to CDC's guidelines on resumption of sports activities.

NMIFA added that it will regularly monitor the health/condition of the players and coaches and it's something that the association has been doing even before the COVID-19 crisis hit the islands. Last Monday, a NMIFA staff conducted a temperature check of every player and coach who entered the facility. Signs are also everywhere, reminding people at the NMITC to practice good hygiene, observe social distancing, and follow other safety guidelines as we battle this pandemic.

"Our first and foremost priority is the welfare and health of all NMIFA players and their families, officials, and staff.

With that being said, we cannot overlook the importance and benefit of exercise to the community and our youth. The NMIFA wishes to provide a safe, worry-free environment where players can train, be active, and stay healthy. These trying times have unfortunately pushed many of our youth into

lethargy, a very dangerous thing to be when fighting off a virus. Thus, the NMIFA hopes to once again jumpstart the active mindset of the community, strengthening our bodies in this fight against COVID-19," NMIFA said.

The CNMI is among the countries that are slowly re-

suming soccer activities while observing safety guidelines. Games in Germany and other

countries in Europe have resumed, while several member-nations of the Asian Football

Confederation, where NMIFA is affiliated, have also returned to play.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players are reminded to observe social distancing while using the benches at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The signage at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville reminds people about good hygiene practices.



Standoff
puts baseball
season in
jeopardy

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Goodell
encourages
teams to sign
Kaepernick

PAGE 18



20 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

National teams resume training

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the CNMI national teams returned to actual training sessions at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Monday afternoon, putting emphasis on physical conditioning while strictly following safety guidelines in place at this time of COVID-19 crisis.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI players observe social distancing while getting ready to perform drills during the resumption of their training session last Monday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2019 file photo, Colin Sinclair makes a return from the baseline during the CNMI Men's Team's semis match against Tahiti in the XVI Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

Race features Sinclair in Podcast pilot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race and the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association had their Podcast pilot last Monday, featuring Pacific Games multiple gold medalist and pro player Colin Sinclair.

Race, who was inspired by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Executive Committee member Norman Del Rosario's *Footcast with Norman*, said the NMITA Podcast will have past and present CNMI players discussing

their journey in the sport.

Sinclair's started when he was 5 years old, as he picked up a tennis racket and trained under Race. He played in the CNMI for almost five years before moving to Australia where he continued trading volleys and serves until high school and then jumped to the collegiate level, as he suited up for Cornell University.

"I just got lucky that I was able to go to Cornell," said the 25-year-old player.

Sinclair was supposed to go to Dartmouth, but his

See RACE on Page 19

Head coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michit-eru Mita welcomed the resumption of their training session, saying that it is a big step toward bringing back normalcy into the sport. Despite "getting back into the field," Mita assured everyone that players, coaches, and staff are following social distancing protocol, there's no physical contact among the training participants, and no matches will be played.

"We thank our staff for putting a lot of effort to maintain the safety of our players. Finally, national teams resumed training," said Mita, who stopped conducting practices with the national teams mid-March due to the COVID-19 crisis and resorted to virtual training sessions for nearly three months.

After the long break from actual training sessions, NMIFA received permission from the COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to resume practices at the NMITC last Monday morning provided the association follows the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease



Control and Prevention and the local government.

In seeking permission from the concerned agencies, NMIFA presented its own safety protocols to protect the welfare of the players, coaches, and their staff involved in the program.

NMIFA has limited the training sessions to national players (maximum of 20 per team) and the number is expected to be lower (between 12 and 18). The training facility (outdoor) is also big enough (105 meters x 68 meters/7,140 sq. meters), ensuring that players and coaches will maintain the required distance from each other. No spectators will also be allowed at the facility, while equipment will be properly and diligently sanitize. Equipment is sufficient, limiting the chance of sharing among the participants, while players will focus more on working on their individual skills during the one to two-hour training sessions.

"There will be very minimal sharing of equipment as there are enough soccer balls per player. Also, balls will be seldom touched as soccer activities are almost entirely just

See NATIONAL on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Northern Mariana Islands Football Association staff checks the temperature of a player entering the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Monday.